

Hafa Adai!

Alleged masterminds in WSR burglary
plead not guilty. » **PAGE 5**

Pot marijuana now 'less contro-
versial,' bill claims. » **PAGE 6**

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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75¢

'Police have Li's phone records'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police detectives had already obtained the records from the cellular phone number of missing Saipan Fresh Market owner Zhi Yuan Li, according to Li's younger brother.

See **POLICE** on **Page 4**

Fire and EMS now a separate department

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services is now a reality after a bill separating the service from the Department of Public Safety

became law yesterday.

Prior to Senate Bill 18-057, SD 2 becoming Public Law 18-73, the CNMI Fire Division was the only remaining fire division in the United States under the wing of a public safety department.

The Legislature passed the bill after finding out that under the purview of DPS, the Fire Division received less than the required funds necessary to fully and properly operate the division.

See **FIRE** on **Page 4**

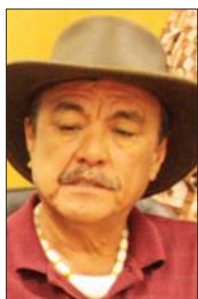


NEW UFO OFFICERS

Philippine Consul General Marciano De Borja swears in the new board of directors of the United Filipino Organizations during an induction ceremony at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan last Friday night. UFO is known for its regular community events like the Mt. Tapochao Community Service every Holy Friday, *Pusong Pinoy*, *Pistang Pinoy*, as well as their participation in July 4th celebrations and sport events.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

See story and more photos on **Page 9**



Dela Cruz

Ex-Tinian mayor: \$28K fees and costs 'unreasonable'

» **Dela Cruz questions, among other costs, hotel expenses even before suit was filed**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Tinian and Aguiguan mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz is opposing Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas' request for \$26,019 in attorneys' fees and \$2,203.25

in costs, describing the fees as "unwarranted and patently unreasonable."

Dela Cruz, through counsel Mark B. Hanson, asked the Superior Court to deny San Nicolas' motion for fees and costs.

Hanson said if the court is

inclined to award some fees, it should only award fees at a reasonable rate for the time spent by only one of San Nicolas' three attorneys.

"As an attorney himself, Mr. San Nicolas should have realized

See **EX-TINIAN** on **Page 4**

INSIDE



NATION

Genetically modified mosquitoes may be released in the Florida Keys.

» **PAGE 14**



ASIA

President Obama and Indian Prime Minister Modi declare an era of "new trust."

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LIFE & STYLE

Miss Colombia Paula Vega has been crowned Miss Universe.

» **PAGE 19**

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Local

Chamber president wants more people to open businesses

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan wants the people of the CNMI to take advantage of the next wave of economic activity brought by the recent influx of foreign investment by becoming entrepreneurs themselves.

Addressing Chamber members and guests during the organization's Installation Dinner on Saturday, the CTSI Logistics executive prefaced his speech by saying that the islands' future appears bright, referring to the casino project of Best Sunshine International Ltd., additional hotels from E-Land, Alter City Group, Honest Profit International Ltd., and Sunshine 100/Tan Holdings.

He, however, wants the people of the CNMI to also take the initiative by setting up businesses of their own that can become mini-drivers of the local economy in concert with Best Sunshines, E-Lands, Alter City Groups, Honest Profits, and Tan Holdings.

He said the Chamber continues to support and encourage those that qualify to work with the Commonwealth Development Authority and the islands' banks to pursue lending through the Small Business Credit Initiative.

"...But what I speak of is modeling a resident lending program, possibly utilizing

Marianas Public Land Trust or better yet local appropriations to mirror the former Economic Development Loan Fund initiative. I do not suggest mirroring the runaway EDLF lending for relatives, friends, apartment and commercial buildings but offering true, significant lending (and what I mean by significant is more than a \$35,000 micro loan)...lending that takes into account a resident with a great business plan but has been turned down by all or most of our banking institutions because of a lack of collateral due to CNMI-wide depressed land values."

He said there are many great business ideas out there but many residents do not qualify for a traditional bank loan due to a lack of good collateral.

"The EDLF fund of my father's generation was created to lend to individuals that create a good business plan, that would employ residents and generate a revolving fund of lending as loans were repaid back into the fund. Generally, applicants qualified for EDLF lending when traditional bank lending was not available. I do not suggest lending for the sake of lending. This fund should have many strings attached, effective monitoring by the lending partner or a cohort of agencies such as CDA, the Department of Commerce Small Business Incubator, or even technical assistance grants from the Office of



MARK RABAGO
Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan speaks before members and guests of the business organization's Installation Dinner last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall.

(Pan), Olympio and Carmen Borja, Jesus and Frances Yumul, and Joe and Marsha Ayuyu.

Another model the Chamber president wants replicated is how investment company Bridge Capital, LLC came to the CNMI.

"The principal owners, John Baldwin and Shawn Scott, viewed the CNMI as a great location to relocate from the U.S. Virgin Islands. Phillip Mendiola-Long and I met them in a David Cohen, Office of Insular Affairs-sponsored investor conference in Honolulu, Hawaii, and we touted the CNMI opportunity. David and Shawn came out saw the beauty of the Islands and decided this would be a perfect location in which to spring board to and from Asia, the U.S. mainland, and ultimately the CNMI to conduct their financing business. As you may know financial institutions like Bridge Capital, LLC provide middle- to high-income jobs, most of their employees pay higher than normal payroll taxes and more than likely can afford a higher standard of living, which may translate to a more discerning palate of consumables and com-

Insular Affairs, that could marshal up resources to support and advise the lender to success."

Sablan hopes a renewed spirit

of entrepreneurship in the CNMI would produce the next generation's Jose and Daidai Tenorio, Herman and Maria Guerrero

modities at the stores, medical services, private education, luxury vehicles, just to name a few items."

Sablan said having three- to four-dozen financial institutions like Bridge Capital that delves in hedge funds, private equity, venture capital, growth capital, foundations and the like can improve the quality of life on the islands.

"Building an above-average to high income society of say 800 to 2,000 individuals through a relatively small financial industry in the CNMI could possibly translate to better job opportunities for our residents but also ultimately much better commodities, services, and education that not only cater to the employees of this industry but complement our society as a whole. The job opportunities in the CNMI will continue to be limited to service industry jobs if we do not look at other industries. We do not need to look far but to our neighbor island of Guahan [Guam] to establish what the limitations are in diversifying our economy."

Sablan said the CNMI government will ultimately have to determine if offering incentives and aggressively marketing these incentives to lure financial institutions to the CNMI outweighs the overall benefit of building a financial industry, providing an opportunity for good jobs, a more educated workforce that brings people home after college, and a possible second leg to the local economy.

Sablan also championed the Economic Stimulus Plan, which variation was successful in luring Best Sunshine to the Commonwealth's shores.

"...This is not anything new. In fact, we commend the members of the Lottery Commission and the then-chairman Sixto Igisomar in aggressively negotiating the establishment of specific terms and conditions the CNMI wanted from a casino operator and the negotiation process that led to the current agreement with Best Sunshine. This is exactly what this Chamber has suggested on numerous occasions utilizing the Investment Incentive Act of 2000. Whether we'd like to admit it or not, the CNMI must compete for viable investors amongst many other countries, provinces, states, cities, even counties. Incentives, more specifically tax incentives, are used globally to lure investors into a specific region. Like the CNMI Casino Gaming Act, the administration could develop a desired model for many of the different ideas pending in the Investment Incentive Act of 2000 and market these items on investment missions into Asia and the United States," he said.

'Medical referrals solely relies on referring physician, patient docs'

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delays in medical referrals cannot be blamed on the Medical Referral Services Office under the Department of Public Health, according to MRS director Ronald Sablan.

Misconception that referral cases sit at the MRS office is not true and, according to Sablan, every case that is submitted to the MRS office is entertained.

"The only time a case for a medically referred patient sits is either documents are not submitted by their referring physicians," he said.

Under the MRS algorithm, the referral process for patients includes a referring physician. The referring physician identifies a patient with medical condition requiring medical care and treatment outside the CNMI due to currently unavailable medical specialist

and/or equipment.

The referring physician completes the referral package, attaching a referral letter with the patient's medical history and condition and forwards it to the MRS office. MRS then inputs and records the information into their data system and prepares it for the MRS medical referral committee for review.

Once that information is in, the MRS referral committee makes its decision and forward

the case back to MRS for final input before approved cases are assigned to the office's coordinators. Those cases that are deferred or denied are returned to the referring physician for recommended actions.

"Our MRS referral committee is formed of doctors that are specialized in the process and they understand that patients under medical referral [if referred] should have all required information before the review

process starts. If it is denied, it will be referred back to the referring physician," Sablan said.

"So it is strictly done by a medical team, whether they approve it or disapprove it. If it is denied, the referring physician has to show up for appeal," he added.

Sablan said another reason for delay is if the patient does not have travel documents, which they must first secure before they can be referred off island.

Leidos: Winning bid to go through integrated resource plan

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Leidos Engineering LLC, which has been contracted by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., said it would use an integrated resource plan to choose the winning bid that will explore renewable energy sources for the islands.

According to Charles Janeczek of Leidos, the request they put out went through a series of interviews for three finalists for the renewable energy projects.

He also confirmed that they intend to award the contract once the winning bid is chosen.

Last November, CUC issued a request for proposal for new power supply resources such as fossil fuel or renewable energy projects for Saipan. The RFP ran starting Nov. 30, 2014, and the deadline was Jan. 30, 2015.

Janeczek said the deadline has been extended to Feb. 23, 2015.

He also noted that the notification of the qualified proposals will be in March this year, evaluation will be in late March and early April, while Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission review and approval will be in May. The successful bidder will be notified in

May, contracts negotiations will be from May to July, awarding will be around June to July, and CPUC will do the final review in August.

The RFP was designed so that CUC could gain full understanding of feasible options, operating characteristics and system impacts, and costs and will be evaluated by Leidos.

The projects could be implemented within three to five years after the award of contract.

Leidos noted that they have hired one of the top 10 engineering firms handling the proposals so that no issues would come in between.

CUC intends for the development of new resources to result in environmentally friendly power, lower fuel and operating costs, and ultimately greater reliability and long-term cost savings for customers.

CUC is seeking all economically and technically feasible power supply options, including traditional fossil-fueled resources as well as renewable energy project.

CUC executive director Alan Fletcher said that CUC shares the sense of responsibility to use environmentally responsible and cost-effective power supply resources to meet the energy

needs of the community and in the future, yet it also faces unique challenges when planning for its future energy needs.

"Current generation resources on the CNMI's three populated islands—Saipan, Rota, and Tinian—are aging and have limited useful service lives remaining," Fletcher said.

Leidos was contracted by CUC to provide input and look at RFPs before awarding and recommending which one to approve.

The project is funded by a grant from the U.S Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

CNMI student selected as part of women education conference



By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's Alexis Palacios Cabrera joined this year's Oregon Women in Higher Education Conference from Jan. 22 to 23, as Oregon's sole student representative on the conference's popular "Wise Women Panel."

The OWHE Conference committee selects one student

from the state to be part of the Wise Women panel during the conference. Cabrera said it was an honor and privilege to be that student.

"It was inspiring to be part of such a great pool of successful, motivated and intelligent women. My experience at the conference has encouraged me to continue my work with students and has exposed me to the many different career paths

that I will be embarking on. I met so many other women who are role models and mentors and it was awesome being able to meet and network with them. The opportunity to speak on behalf of other students, especially women, was a blessing," she told *Saipan Tribune* in an email yesterday.

Cabrera joined other top professional on the panel, including deans and professors from

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Women professionals dedicated to education formed the "Wise Women" panel at the OWHE conference last week. From left to right, are Dr. Ann Marie Klotz, dean for Campus Life at New York Institute of Technology; Dr. Susan Stein of Pacific University, Alexis Cabrera, Laurie Woodward, director of the Erb Memorial Union at University of Oregon; and Carla Gary.

Pacific University, University of Oregon, and the New York Institute of Technology.

This year's theme was "Navigate Your Adventure." Attendees networked with colleagues from around the state, reflected upon their own professional and personal adventures, and attended sessions on personal and professional wellbeing, career development, "best practices," and

"leading in an era of change."

Cabrera is a graduate student in the Post-Secondary Adult & Continuing Education Program at Portland State University. She graduated summa cum laude from PSU, with a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Social Science.

She is the daughter of John and Betty Ann Palacios Cabrera, and attended both Garapan and Kagman elementary schools and finished high school at Kagman High School in 2008, graduating as her batch's valedictorian and recipient of the Community Service Award.

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Salary hike for 5 Cabinet posts OK'd

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos has signed a law increasing the salary level of key government posts in the CNMI.

Inos signed Public Law 18-72, titled "To increase the salary level for the Secretary of the Department of Finance, the Secretary of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and the Secretary of the Department of Commerce; and correcting the titles of the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety and the Secretary of the Department of Public Works."

Before becoming public law, House Bill 18-125, HD1, SD1 was passed by the House of Representatives on first and final reading on Feb. 11, 2014. The Senate subsequently passed it on first and final reading on Dec. 23, 2014.

In a regular session in December, the Legislature noted that "certain department heads' salaries have been stagnant for many years," considering the importance of the departments.

The Secretary of Commerce is responsible for growing the CNMI economy and continuously looks for new investors, especially during economically challenging times. The Secretary of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs manages the biggest Executive Branch department with functions not limited to

the food stamp program, youth programs, *man'amko* programs, and social programs.

The Legislature, however, noted that the head of these departments are paid a "salary much lower than other Cabinet members." The new law aims to increase these officials' salaries to the same levels as other Cabinet members.

Under the new law, the Sec-

retary of Community and Cultural Affairs, the Secretary of Commerce, the Commissioner of Public Safety, and the Secretary Public Works will now receive an annual salary not exceeding \$54,000. The Secretary of Finance will now receive an annual salary not exceeding \$70,000.

The new law also has a severability and savings clauses.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
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SAIPAN, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Special Education State Advisory Panel (SESAP), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold its Quarterly Meeting on Thursday, January 29, 2015, 5:00pm to 7:00pm at the Board of Education Conference Room, Susupe Saipan. This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - a) Roll Call
 - b) Presence of a Quorum
 - c) Adoption of Agenda
 - d) Adoption of Minutes
- December 18, 2014
- II. House Bill 19-878 - Status
- III. Memorandum of Understanding - PSS & OVR
- IV. SESAP Bylaws - Revision
- V. Secondary Transition Presentation
Laura Brown/Leila Staffler
- VI. Miscellaneous
- VII. Adjournment

In compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreters must call 237-3029. Several days notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/S/ Dexter Apatang
Chairperson

/S/ Suzanne Lizama
Director, Special Education Program

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US govt seeks to vacate trial in case vs Tinian Dynasty

The U.S. government has requested the federal court to vacate the Feb. 9, 2015, trial date in the criminal case against the owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino as their settlement deal is ongoing.

During a status conference on Friday, assistant U.S. attorney Marivic David informed U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona that the U.S. government had advised the lawyer for Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd. that they have submitted their request for settlement to the appropriate agencies in Main Justice in Washington, D.C.

David said the agencies are aware of what the parties pro-

pose to settle in the case.

David also disclosed that the U.S. government has received additional documentation from HKE counsel for submission to Main Justice.

The prosecutor made an oral motion to vacate the Feb. 9 trial date and continue it for another month, based "on the interests of justice."

HKE counsel Bruce Berline opposed the motion and requested that the U.S. government put that motion in writing.

Berline asked for additional time in order to obtain consent from his client, HKE.

Manglona said the parties have reached an agreement but have yet to finalize it formally.

Manglona did not rule on the

prosecution's motion to continue the trial in order to allow HKE the opportunity to lodge any objection.

The judge, however, informed the parties that she was inclined to grant the motion but only for a short continuance.

Manglona set a hearing for the motion to continue the trial for Feb. 2 at 8:30am.

The U.S. government filed in November 2014 a second superseding indictment that contains 158 criminal charges against Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd.

The charges are one count of conspiracy to cause a financial institution to fail to file a currency transaction report or CTR, 155 counts of failure to file a

CTR, one count of failure to file a suspicious activity report, and one count of failure to maintain an effective anti-money laundering program. The indictment also has a notice of forfeiture.

The initial indictment had charged HKE and then-VIP services manager George Que and then-casino manager Tim Blyth with only 10 charges. Que and Blyth had entered into a settlement deal with the U.S. government in exchange for the dismissal of the criminal charges against them.

According to the indictment, HKE allowed gamblers at Tinian Dynasty to conduct transactions involving more than \$10,000 without filing CTRs with the Financial Crimes En-

forcement Network from September 2009 to April 25, 2013.

Tinian Dynasty allegedly failed to file about 3,640 CTRs for cash transactions over

\$10,000 as required by law. The total dollar amount of reportable currency transactions that were not filed is about \$1.38 million. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Rota delegation elects new chair

Rep. Glenn L. Maratita (R-Rota) has been elected chairman of the 19th Rota Legislative Delegation following the group's organizational session yesterday.

Maratita was unanimously elected by the four legislative group members: Senate President Victor B. Hocog (Ind-Rota), Sen. Steve Mesngon (R-Rota), Sen. Teresita A. Santos (R-Rota), and himself.

Mesngon was elected vice chair, while Hocog was named floor leader. Santos was elected legislative secretary, completing the organizational leadership.

The delegation members said they will continue addressing is-

ssues and concerns on Rota, with Maratita pledging that he will be a "team player" in the organization.

Hocog said the organization is set to meet with Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig on Wednesday to discuss organizational matters, including the group's operational budget.

The local delegations of Tinian and Aguiguan and Saipan and the Northern Islands elected their officers last Friday, with Sen. Francisco Borja (Ind-Tinian) and Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) elected chairmen of the Tinian and Saipan delegations, respectively. **(Joel D. Pinaroc)**



HUNTING FOR HERBS

YIGO, Guam —Trisha Naputi and her grandmother Teresita Concepcion Flores walk with Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas archeologist Ronnie Rogers on Andersen Air Force Base Jan. 20 to collect medicinal plants. The community had four weeks to participate in medicinal plant collection.

JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

EX-TINIAN

From Page 1

that while a team of attorneys pounding the table in court may look strong to his voting constituents, such legal overkill is not reimbursable—particularly where Mr. San Nicolas and his attorneys were backseat drivers in an election contest vigorously defended from its inception by competent attorneys from the CNMI government representing the Commonwealth Election Commission," Hanson said.

Attorney Viola Alepuyo, counsel for San Nicolas, said that based on their hourly rate of \$210 and work performed, her attorney's fees amount to \$16,390.50, while her co-counsels Matthew T. Gregory's fee is \$8,998.50 and Braddock Huesman's is \$630.

Alepuyo said the total costs incurred is \$2,203.25, which includes Gregory's \$424.40.

She said the amounts San Nicolas is asking for are reason-

able due to the nature of the case and the expedited deadlines. She cited that CNMI law clearly provides for costs and reasonable attorney's fees in situations like this.

In Dela Cruz's opposition, Hanson said San Nicolas' motion for fees is untimely.

Hanson said both Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja's order that dismissed Dela Cruz's election challenge on Dec. 11, 2014, and Naraja's order the following day confirming the election result did not award San Nicolas attorney's fees.

Hanson said because Naraja did not award fees, the statute provides a remedy to San Nicolas for that omission—an appeal by Dec. 15, 2014, to the CNMI Supreme Court as an "aggrieved party."

Since San Nicolas did not appeal Naraja's order, any motion now is time barred, Hanson said.

He also argued that San Nicolas' request for fee award is unwarranted as San Nicolas was

merely a nominal defendant in the election contest process.

The lawyer said the claims in Dela Cruz's complaint were all aimed at the conduct of the Commonwealth Election Commission in organizing and conducting the Tinian election.

Hanson said any award to San Nicolas of a "victory" over Dela Cruz in his case against the CEC would be "repugnant to the democratic process," and a violation of sound public policy.

Hanson said Dela Cruz should be commended for bringing to light substantial flaws in the election law and CEC's manner of conducting elections.

On the costs issue, Hanson said with the exception of some nominal costs of Gregory, San Nicolas' claimed costs consist almost entirely of his and Connie Villagomez's travel from Tinian to Saipan and back with hotel stays, rental car, and meals.

"With the exception of travel expenses necessary to attend court hearings [on] Saipan, all

other costs, including the cost of hotels [on] Saipan and meals that Mr. San Nicolas and his companion would have eaten on Tinian should be denied," he said.

Hanson also questioned San Nicolas' claim for expenses such as invoice for Paradise Hotel from Nov. 6 to 8, 2014, when Dela Cruz had yet to file his lawsuit at that time.

"Such demands only serve to highlight the bad faith nature of the...motion for attorneys' fees and costs," he said.

In his lawsuit filed last Nov. 12, Dela Cruz alleged several irregularities during the Nov. 4, 2014 election.

At a court-ordered recount last Dec. 1, Dela Cruz garnered 696 votes, San Nicolas got 705, while David Cing obtained 47.

During the first counting of votes, San Nicolas of the Republican Party won by seven votes, 703-696, over independent Dela Cruz.

Last Dec. 11, Naraja dismissed Dela Cruz's election challenge.

FIRE

From Page 1

It also noted that the Fire Division as a National Incident Management System-compliant organization performs multifaceted functions that extend beyond traditional fire suppression and emergency medical services and responds to over 8,500 calls annually for emergency and non-emergency fire and emergency medical services.

"The Legislature finds that the Fire Division's operations has grown to such an extent that providing specific focus to the division's missions of providing fire and emergency medical services to the general public has become problematic under its current government operational structure," reads a portion of the now PL 18-73.

Under the new law, which passed without Gov. Eloy S. Inos' signature, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services will be administered by a commissioner of Fire and EMS who would be appointed by the governor.

The resident commissioner

of Fire and EMS on Tinian and Rota, meanwhile, will be appointed by the islands' respective mayors with advice and consent of their respective municipal councils.

The Senate passed SB 18-057 last Aug. 21, while the House of Representatives passed the amended version, SB 18-057, SD 2, last Dec. 11 with a virtual army of firefighters and EMS personnel in attendance and crowding the House gallery.

With the creation of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, the Commonwealth now has 13 principal departments instead of the previous 12.

Before the Legislature passed the bill creating the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services last year, there were also three other failed attempts to have similar bills passed before the House and Senate. Inos had to act on the bill—sign or veto it—within 40 days. Sans any gubernatorial action, any bill passed by the Legislature automatically becomes law.

The erstwhile Fire and EMS division currently has 96 personnel on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

POLICE

From Page 1

The brother told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that although police have yet to recover Li's cellphone, detectives got the phone records for incoming and outgoing calls.

The records may enable the police to trace the person Li called or the individual who called Li, said the brother, who asked not to be named.

The brother, however, stated that although they still continue to do an islandwide search, he believes that Li is already dead considering it's already more than a week since his disappearance.

He said their 65-year-old father, who arrived last week from China, may go home after a month.

Li's eldest daughter appealed

yesterday to anyone who has information on her father's whereabouts to call the police.

"Please put it again in the newspaper that I am offering \$50,000 cash reward for information," the 23-year-old daughter told *Saipan Tribune*.

Anyone that can provide information leading to the location of Li—whether he's still alive or already dead—may actually get \$60,000 cash or more as a businesswoman has also pledged to give a \$10,000 cash reward.

Li, 43, was reportedly last seen on Jan. 17 at 11am, seeing a friend at a tire shop in Puerto Rico. His family reported his disappearance to police that day at 7:56pm. The following morning, police recovered Li's white Toyota Tacoma pickup truck abandoned on a dirt road located between Ladder Beach and Obyan Beach.

Alleged masterminds in WSR burglary plead not guilty

Probable cause has been found to warrant the filing of six charges against two men accused of instructing a group of teenagers to burglarize the William S. Reyes Elementary School in Chalan Kanoa, where

laptops and other items worth \$7,801.40 were stolen.

At a preliminary hearing on Friday, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo found probable cause to charge Ignacio Leon Guerrero and

Vincent Sanchez each with burglary, theft, and conspiracy to commit burglary and/or theft.

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas called to the witness stand police detective Olympio S. Muna, who de-

tailed for the court the police investigation that led to the suspects' arrest last Jan. 13 and 14 and the recovery of some of the stolen items.

Attorneys Matthew Gregory and Michael Ernest are the

court-appointed counsels for the 33-year-old Leon Guerrero and 19-year-old Sanchez respectively.

At yesterday's arraignment, the suspects, through their counsels, pleaded not guilty.

According to the information filed by Barcinas, on or between Dec. 20 and 21, 2014, Leon Guerrero caused Sanchez and three juveniles to burglarize WSR with the purpose of committing theft.

Among the items stolen were five Asus laptops, 10 Lenovo laptops, an HP laptop, a Sony Vaio laptop, an Apple iPad Air, two Acer laptops, a Toshiba portable hard drive, wireless router, water blaster, cordless drill, and a gas blower.

Police also arrested three male teenagers, but the case

against them was sealed because they are minors.

Police recovered some of the stolen items at Leon Guerrero's home, located along Emilia Avenue in Chalan Kanoa, during a search last Dec. 29.

Muña said a police officer was dispatched to WSR school last Dec. 21 at 6:19pm after police received a call about a burglary incident.

Muña said the officer learned from a WSR staff that burglars entered three classrooms, the maintenance building, and the library.

Two days later, on Dec. 23, a woman provided information to police about the burglary that led to the suspects' identification and subsequent arrest, Muña said. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

DLNR chief: Limited personnel impedes protection of species

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Limited resources and personnel prevents broader species protection in the CNMI, according to acting Department of Land and Natural Resources secretary Richard Seman, giving some context to a recent U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report on the "inadequacy" of the CNMI's regulatory mechanisms.

In an interview yesterday, Seman cited the lack of manpower in the law enforcement section of the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife as "obstacles in getting the job done."

"Not only five people can do the job. We know for a fact that some activity occurring might be at nighttime, and that's where we don't have people going out there on a regular basis. There may be some [personnel] to do some patrol, but that's roving," he said.

Enforcement is harder especially in remote areas and sanctuaries like Bird Island, as extra schedules are implemented during identified turtle nesting periods, he said.

The Service has proposed 23 species in the Marianas to be listed as either endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Sixteen of these species occur in the CNMI, where the Service explored the "inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms" relating to the protection of these species as one of the contributing factors to them being listed in their October report.

Citing several chapters of CNMI law, the Service found that these regulations are "modestly enforced and are currently inadequate to protect" these species, finding that for both Guam and the CNMI, the enforcement of these "regulations is not documented."

Seman said this lack of manpower would be one of the things addressed in the proposed listing's comment period, which is ongoing. He also posed this question: "What's the point of listing a species if there is inadequate enforcement to address those?"

Listing could also create some land development problems for the CNMI, he said,

noting how the nightingale reed warbler is "healthy" and thriving in the CNMI, adapting not only to grass but *tangan tangan* as well, despite its federal designation as endangered.

Seman said it is their position that some of the species proposed are not endangered at all but may appear so because the species are only found in the CNMI.

The ESA comment period has

since reopened since it closed in December, after first opening in October. The new comment period closes Feb. 11, with public hearings scheduled in the coming days. The first one will be on Saipan at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center this Wednesday; the second on Rota at Sinapalo Elementary School, Thursday; and the last on Saturday at the Tinian Elementary School.

CHCC eyes more preparedness training for health emergencies, terror attacks

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is looking at beefing up its Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness team this year, according to chief executive officer Esther Muña.

"Early awareness and response to a bioterrorist attack or a disease outbreak could save many lives and potentially stop or slow the spread of an outbreak. The team is always at the forefront of preparedness activities, including preparing for and responding to major, acute threats and emergencies that impact the health of the CNMI people," Muña said.

CHCC's emergency preparedness team went through several exercises last year that focused on their response capabilities to bioterrorist attacks or disease outbreaks.

Muña said that training of all medical and non-medical response personnel were accelerated last year to step up their response capabilities.

Muna noted that one of the biggest training exercise they had in 2014 was to prepare for an Ebola virus outbreak, should it reach the CNMI.

"Immediate assessment of

our capabilities was made with the emergency preparedness team, the EpiNet surveillance team, infection control unit, internal medicine, laboratory, hospital administrator, director of nursing, general support, housekeeping supervisor and other support staff to conduct a 'dry run test,'" Muña said.

All of the hospital's critical manpower, including a contact tracing team, were identified and alerted. Personal protective equipment and other inventory resources were identified for the response.

"With our partnership with the Commonwealth Ports Authority, the Marianas Visitors Authority, Homeland Security Management, and federal agencies, a site at the airport was identified and is being renovated for CHCC use to screen, quarantine, and isolate arriving passengers who have traveled or may have been in contact with someone from the Ebola affected areas in Africa," Muña said.

She assured the emergency preparedness team will be continuing with their training activities this year to ensure the safety and health of the people in the CNMI if ever outbreaks or attacks were to occur.

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Legalization of marijuana now ‘less controversial,’ bill claims

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The legalization of marijuana is now a “less controversial” issue compared to a few years ago, now that Colorado and Washington have joined other states in approving marijuana for recreational use, according to the findings of a bill that seeks to legalize marijuana in the CNMI.

Currently, there are 24 states, including Guam, that have enacted laws to legalize marijuana, the new bill also states.

The move to allow the use of marijuana in the CNMI is hardly new and there have been several bills aimed to legalize its medicinal use in the CNMI, although none has so far prospered.

In 2012, a bill to legalize marijuana also pointed to potential revenues for the CNMI in addition to its medical benefits.

Senate Bill 19-06 was pre-filed last week by Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan).

The bill claims that “the CNMI must realize that the time has come to legalize the use and possession of marijuana strictly for medicinal purposes, and to remove any and all associated penalties pertaining to the medicinal use and medical prescription of marijuana.”

The new bill echoes previous claims that it will address the need for alternative treatment for patients suffering from debilitating illnesses such as cancer, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, damage to the nervous system, epilepsy, and post-traumatic stress syndrome, among others. The bill claims the medicinal use of marijuana can be an alternative to more costly medical treatments for sufferers of these diseases.

The bill provides for the creation of a Medicinal Marijuana

Advisory Board, tasked to review medical cases that would benefit

from marijuana and accept or review petitions to add medical

conditions that qualify for the medicinal use of cannabis.

However, all penalties and provisions currently in place that prohibit the use and possession of marijuana without a prescription remain in full effect.

Submission deadline for essay contest on overseas Pinoys extended to Feb. 8

The deadline to submit entries for the essay contest sponsored by the US Pinoys for Good Governance Marianas chapter has been extended to Feb. 8, according to chapter chair Dr. Celia Lamkin.

“I am encouraging the Filipino youth who are enrolled in high school and college in the Philippines and other countries to participate in this essay contest. Let us show to the world how we recognize the greatness and heroism of overseas Filipinos and their contributions to our motherland, the Philippines,” said Lamkin.

The contest is open to all Filipino students or of Filipino descent in the Philippines or overseas, from 10 to 25 years old who are enrolled in high school and college.

The theme of the essay is

“The Overseas Filipinos and their impact on the Philippines.”

The essay should focus on any of the following subjects: the contributions of overseas Filipinos to the economy of the Philippines; the importance of the participation of overseas Filipinos in Philippine elections; the social risks that children and families of overseas Filipinos face due to long years of separation or long distance relationships; or why overseas Filipinos are called to be the “new heroes” of the Philippines.

The essay must be original. It must not be previously published in print or online nor in any visual and/or auditory recording. It must be in English and must not be more than 1,500 typed words and should be in MS Word format.

Prize ranges from 25,000 to 3,000 pesos (\$500 to \$60). The school/college/university of the first prize winning essays will receive 10,000 pesos (\$220) each. There are 10 consolation prizes of 1,000 pesos (\$25).

Entries should be submitted by email to overseasfilipinosesay@yahoo.com.

Every student entry must contain the confirmation of the school principal, college/university dean or president that the essay is written by and originated from the student. Signature of the school principal, college or university president or dean, address, email address and telephone number are required to authenticate the student entry.

Only one entry per person will be accepted.

The contest rules are avail-

able at <http://www.uspgg.org/aug21/2014-essay-writing-contest/>.

Entry forms are available at http://uspgg.org/aug21/uspggcontent/uploads/USPGG_Essay_2015_Form.pdf or it can be requested by email at celialamkin@yahoo.com and norman.silvestre@yahoo.com.ph.

A parental consent, authorization and liability waiver form is required for minor student. Adult students, for their part, must submit a student consent, authorization and liability waiver form.

The winners will be announced during the 3rd Global Summit of Filipinos in the Diaspora on Feb. 25-27, 2015, at Manila Hotel in Manila, where approximately 600 participants from different countries are expected to attend. **(PR)**

High surf seen to subside today

Gentle to moderate trade winds will continue for the next several days and a high surf advisory remains in effect until 10am today, Tuesday.

According to the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, combined seas of 7 to 9 feet will gradually subside to between 5 and 7 feet by Thursday as a

shear line weakens and north swell decreases.

Surf is expected to slowly subside and fall below hazardous levels today.

The public is being advised to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those facing north, as rip currents will be life threatening. **(HSEM)**

SHEFA to discuss policy on NMTI anew

The Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance will again be revisiting and discussing its policy on providing financial assistance to students of the Northern Marianas Trade Institute, this time on the funding level per student.

SHEFA board member John Pialur said that they have to work on distribution of funding, specifically the procedures

and policies that will govern the funding levels for each term.

“We will work on a distribution of funding on different levels because it will make sense so that students from NMTI can purchase their books or whatever they need,” Pialur said.

On Jan. 15, the SHEFA board passed a motion to revisit the policies for NMTI as opposed to only two college

terms since NMTI enrolls students throughout the year.

The SHEFA board moved to discuss the policy with the committee on policy and procedures on how financial assistance will be made available for NMTI.

Last year SHEFA approved to include NMTI in their policy so that funding would be more readily available, but Pialur said the only issue is with the distribution part for NMTI.

SHEFA also plans to revisit its priority fields of study grant at the meeting of the committee on policy and procedures.

“We need to get this moving because we have been discussing about revisiting this all the time so we need to set a meeting and revisit the priority fields within our policy so that we could look at the specific levels that students mostly major in,” SHEFA chair Josephine Sablan said. **(Jayson Camacho)**



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW/FHWA-15-IFB-003

**CROSS ISLAND ROAD AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS,
PROJECT NO. CM-NH-0031(016), ROUTE 31 PHASE III, SAIPAN**

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Cross Island Road and Drainage Improvements, Route 31 Phase III, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **January 20, 2015** at Pacific Quick Print & Post, located in Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of state price to Pacific Quick Print & Post, is required to defray the cost of printing the package.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **February 6, 2015**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **March 10, 2015** to **Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with all prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid. The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW/FHWA-15-IFB-003"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **March 20, 2015**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **March 20, 2015**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via email to procurement@picom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 20, 2015** and the bid documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive, Saipan no later than **April 1, 2015**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, **April 6, 2015**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on **March 20, 2015**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations §70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:



- 1) Cash
- 2) US Gov't Securities
- 3) Stocks and BONDS traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Three Hundred Thirty (330) working days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the standard Specification for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway Projects, FP03

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-15-001, Rev. No.1

Steel Roof Enclosure for CUC Rota Power Plant Used Oil Secondary Containment No. 1, Songsong Village Rota, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced construction firms for Steel Roof Enclosure for CUC Rota Power Plant Used Oil Secondary Containment No. 1 in Songsong Village, Rota.

Contractor shall provide and pay for all the labor, materials, tools, equipment, transportation, temporary construction of every nature and all other services and facilities necessary to execute, complete and deliver the work within the specified time frame.

A pre-proposal site visit is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 11, 2015** at the CUC Rota Administration Office in Sinapalo, Rota. All potential proposers are encouraged to attend, to familiarize themselves with the site conditions. However the site visit is not mandatory for the potential proposers, owing to the difficult logistics and uncertain air transport.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by **February 12, 2015**, 10:00 a.m. (ChST) to be considered. Registered proponents of the initial CUC-RFP-15-001, are exempted from paying the package fee for CUC-RFP-15-001, Rev. No.1.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC RFP -15-001, Rev.1 Steel Roof Enclosure for CUC Rota Power Plant Used Oil Secondary Containment No. 1"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than February 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST).**

The Proposer is required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page - <https://marianaslabor.net/>.

A **Proposal Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to CUC and the Attorney General.

A **Payment and a Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment & Performance bond shall be executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the Commonwealth or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC and the Attorney General, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 13, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Stipulated Order 2 Project Coordinator via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

NI execs explore grant opportunities with USDA

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Department of Agriculture area director Joseph Diego discussed grant opportunities with Northern Islands Mayor Jerome Aldan and Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Tonie Tudela during a meeting

last Thursday.

The Community Facility, Rural Business Enterprise, and Community Connect grants were some of the topics discussed.

Diego called these grants some of the “low-hanging fruit” ready available for the CNMI, describing the CNMI’s high

USDA seek applicants for rural broadband grant

TIYAN, Guam—USDA Rural Development State Director Chris Kanazawa announced yesterday that USDA is soliciting applications for fiscal year 2015 Community Connect Program grants. The program provides grants to establish essential broadband services in rural communities where it is currently not available.

“The Community Connect program serves rural communities where broadband service is least likely to be available, but where it can make a tremendous difference in the quality of life for citizens of the Western Pacific,” Kanazawa said. “This grant can assist rural residents tap into the enormous potential of the Internet.”

Applicants eligible to apply include state, county, city or township, Native American tribal governments, nonprofits, for profits, and small businesses. The minimum amount of grants awarded will be \$100,000; the

maximum is \$3,000,000.

The deadline for applications to be submitted is Feb. 17, 2015.

Last year, USDA announced new rules to better target Community Connect grants to areas where they are needed the most.

Community Connect grants can be used to construct, acquire or lease facilities to deploy broadband to community facilities such as schools and public safety locations, as well as residences and businesses in the community.

“The Community Connect grant can be made available to bring the benefits of broadband, including new educational, business and public health and safety opportunities, to residents living in some of the most remote parts of the Western Pacific,” said Joe Diego, Area Director.

You can access more information on the Community Connect grant at: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/utp_commconnect.html. (**USDA**)



USDA area director Joseph Diego, center, discussed grant opportunities with—from left to right—architect Herman Cabrera, Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Tonie Tudela, Northern Islands Mayor Jerome Aldan, and former representative William Torres.

DENNIS B. CHAN

unemployment rate and its designation as a Substantially Underserved Trust Area, or SUTA, as a “high advantage.”

SUTA-designation, for example, can drop loan rates from 3.75 percent to 2 percent, according to Diego.

Chartering a vessel to the island of Pagan was discussed through the Community Facility grant, as part of a project for the island’s resettlement.

Tudela also took interest in the business enterprise grants to promote culture and local crafts in the CNMI.

A “three-pronged” approach was discussed with this grant of \$50,000: a general conference to have those interested sign up for a local crafts apprenticeship; choosing those who would most like share these crafts with the community; and then documenting and sharing the work done.

Crafts discussed were blacksmithing, making coconut graters, jewelry and braid making with corals and natural items, learning herbal remedies, bullcart and canoe making, among

other things.

The Community Connect Grant, which aims to bring broadband services to rural communities, was also discussed to bring Internet-use to Pagan.

This grant could be used to construct or acquire facilities for broadband service and could be used to build a community center.

According to USDA, the Community Facility Grant aims to provide healthcare, public safety or public and community services to small and low-

income communities.

The grant targets small and emerging businesses in rural areas and can be used to acquire or develop land, or build, convert, or renovate infrastructure; the capitalization of revolving loan funds including funds that will make loans for startups and working capital; training and technical assistance; distance adult learning for job training and advancement; rural transportation improvement; and project planning, according to USDA.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Air Force training at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at Warning Area 517 from 2am to 2pm and 8pm to 11:59pm on Jan. 29. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the area during the times and date indicated. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprised of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. (**PR**)

SHRM to hold first 2015 meeting Thursday

The Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter will host Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres as its special guest speaker at the group’s first general membership meeting of 2015, this Thursday, Jan. 29, at Charley’s Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club. The program will include the installation ceremony for the 2015 board.

This meeting will be held from 11:30am to 1:30pm and will include lunch at a cost of \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited and can be reserved by contacting Micah

Parico-Acuavera by phone at 234-1795 or by e-mail at corpoffice@triplejsaipan.com or by e-mail to Frank Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com. (**SHRM**)

NMPASI closed on Jan. 30

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. would like to let the public know that our office will be closed on Jan. 30, 2015, from 8am to 5pm, for Staff Development. Business will resume on Feb. 2, 2015. (**PR**)

NMDC membership meeting set

The Northern Marianas Descent Corp., a chartered non-profit, will hold a general membership meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015, starting at 6pm, at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan. The agenda includes developing and adopting the 2015 Community Action Plan; membership recruitment; election of officers & standing committees; and updating the NMD *amicus curiae* filed with the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. (**PR**)

Free OSHA workshop

Rick C. Foster of the Compliance Office, Honolulu Area Office, will present a free workshop on severe injuries and new record-keeping reporting requirements effective

Jan. 1, 2015, for workplaces under federal OSHA; the importance of having a safety and health plan in place; and federal OSHA jurisdiction in the Pacific.

The workshop will be held at WIA Building No. 1215, Capitol Hill (maximum of 20 per session) on the following dates:

- Jan. 26, 2015, 9 am to 12pm
- Jan. 27, 2015, 9 am to 12pm
- Jan. 28, 2015, 9 am to 12pm

For reservations call 664-3156 and ask for Elaine or email elaine.pangelinan@gmail.com, or call 664-1704/05/08/57 and ask for Katrina or email katrina.diaz@gmail.com. (**PR**)

Free training on effective parenting

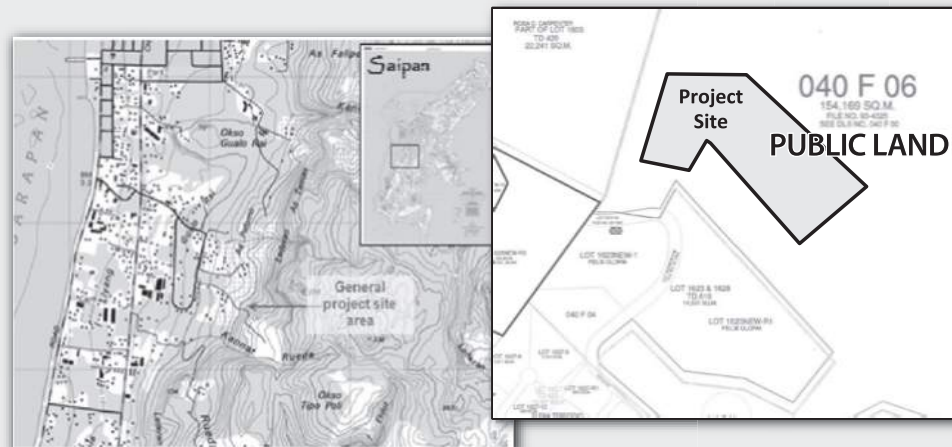
Brilliant Star School will be offering a “Parent Effectiveness Training” at no charge to anyone in the community interested in attending. The training will be held on Feb. 4 from 6:30pm to 8pm at the Brilliant Star School located on Navy Hill. The talk is appropriate for parents of all age children. The presenter, Ganasini Iris, holds a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from State University of New York and a master’s degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Oregon. For more information contact Brilliant Star School at (670) 323-STAR (7827). (**PR**)

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTIFICATION OF ADJACENT NEIGHBORS PROPOSED CUC GEO-THERMAL EXPLORATORY WELL DRILLING PROJECT GUALO RAI, SAIPAN

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is presently reviewing a Major Siting Permit application package for an exploratory well drilling project that is being proposed by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC). The proposed action involves drilling CUC well GR-6 (existing) to a deeper depth. The project is exploratory and drilling would last approximately three months.

The proposed project is in response to a Request for Proposals by the CUC to collect and evaluate scientific data and make recommendations regarding the development of geothermal energy on Saipan (CUC RFP 14-001). The project site is approximately 0.72 acres in size and located on Public Land surrounding CUC Well No. GR-6 (Lot No. 040-F-046) and is accessed via Earhart Drive. The project site is surrounded by forested areas. As noted on a land plat of the site, adjacent neighbors include Mr. Felix Olopai and Ms. Rosa C. Carpenter.



If you are interested in learning more about the project, please contact the local DCRM Office located at the Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualao Rai, Saipan. The project file is open for review and comment during regular business hours from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please contact the DCRM at 664.8300 if you have questions or would like to learn more about the project; Permit application Number SMS-2014-X-054.!

Pilot is safe after ditching 253 miles from Maui

»4 rescued from second plane crash off Oahu

HONOLULU—The pilot of a single engine Cirrus SR-22 aircraft that ran out of fuel is safe after ditching his aircraft 253 miles northeast of Maui, Hawaii Sunday.

At approximately 4:44pm the pilot was able to deploy the aircraft's airframe parachute system and safely exit the aircraft into a life raft.

Watchstanders at the Coast Guard Joint Rescue Coordination Center Honolulu identified

the cruise ship *Veendam*, en route to Lahaina, Maui, and coordinated the pilot's ditch near their location.

At 5:21pm the crew of the *Veendam* rescued the pilot. The pilot was reported to be in good condition. The plane was last observed partially submerged.

Weather conditions at the time of the rescue were seas of 9 to 12 feet and winds of 25 to 28 mph.

The Coast Guard HC-130

Hercules airplane from Air Station Barbers Point assisted the pilot during the process of ditching his aircraft and maintained communications throughout the ditching process. The Hercules crew remained on scene until the pilot was safely aboard the *Veendam*.

The flight originated in Tracy, California, and was destined for Kahului Maui.

At 12:30pm the pilot contacted the Hawaii National

Guard and reported his aircraft had approximately three hours of fuel remaining and he would be ditching 230 miles north east of Maui.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Coast Guard rescued all four passengers aboard a second single engine aircraft that ran out of fuel and ditched approximately 11 miles west of Oahu, Sunday.

A Coast Guard MH-65 Dolphin helicopter crew located and hoisted all four passengers. They were flown to Coast Guard Air Station Barbers point

where they were transferred to emergency medical services. The condition of the passengers is not known.

At 6:18pm, the pilot contacted the Hawaii Control Facility at Honolulu International Airport and declared and in flight emergency 30 miles west of Oahu. The pilot reported the aircraft was running out of fuel and that the aircraft may have to ditch.

At 6:27pm, the aircraft disappeared from radar and lost communications.

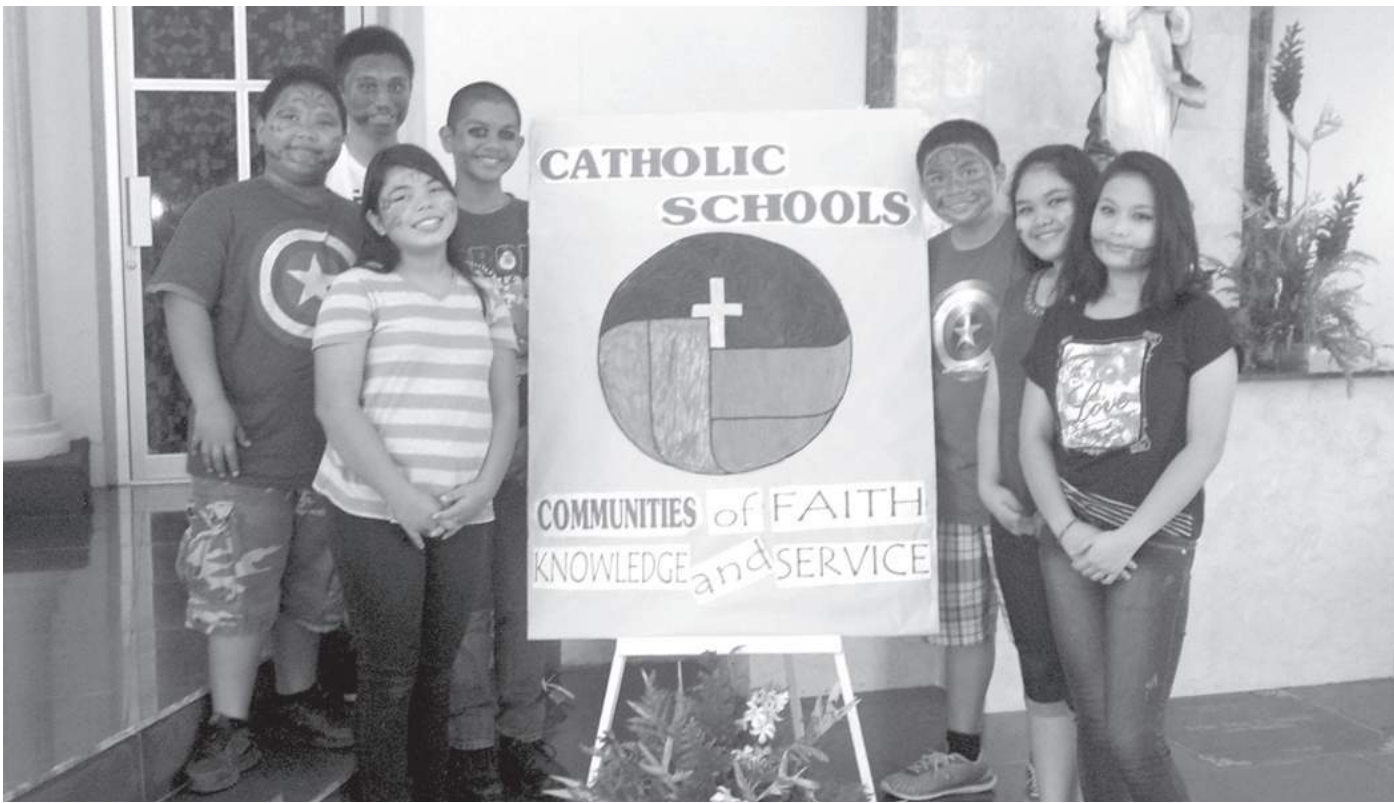
The Coast Guard diverted a

crew aboard an HC-130 Hercules airplane crew previously involved in Sunday's ditching of a single-engine Cirrus SR-22. An MH-65 Dolphin helicopter crew from Air Station Barbers Point, a 45-foot Response Boat-Medium crew was launched from Coast Guard Station Honolulu and the 87-foot Coast Guard cutter *Kittiwake* also launched.

The single engine Cessna was flying from Hanapepe, Kauai to Kalaeloa, Oahu.

Three adults and one child were aboard the aircraft. (USCG)

Rota school kicks off Catholic Schools Week



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sixth to 8th grade students pose in front of the Catholic Schools Week theme poster. The poster was displayed at the San Francisco de Borja Church during the kickoff Mass last Sunday.

Luta's Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja joined Mount Carmel School, Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center, and other Catholic schools around the country to kick off National Catholic Schools Week on Sunday, Jan. 25, to observe the weeklong celebration of Christ-centered, faith-based education.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service." It seeks to highlight the important academic, faith-building and community contributions provided by a Catholic education.

This year marks the 41st anniversary of the week, established in 1974 to recognize Catholic education as a great gift to the church.

"Each year, with every celebration of Catholic Schools Week, we have the opportunity to reflect on the tremendous value of a Catholic education," said administrator/principal Carmen H. Atalig. "We particularly express our gratitude for the great support from families, benefactors and donors, the alumni, our parishes, our diocese, and the Luta community for their commitment to our Catholic schools."

"Catholic schools are a vital aspect of the church's mission to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and is an important aspect of our own teaching mission," said ESFDB board chair Edward Maratita Jr. "Pope Francis has reminded us that the new evangelization is not exactly about what we do and what programs

we adopt. Rather it is about what God is doing, the graces we are being blessed with, and the Spirit that is always being poured out over our ministry."

"At the same time, we cannot forget, through the education and faith formation of children and youth, our Catholic schools are part of a solution to support families and to build productive lives for future generations," added Maratita.

During Catholic Schools Week, some students share their thoughts about what attending Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja means to them:

■ "I want to learn about God."—Kindergarten student Damian "J" H. Atalig

■ "Attending ESFDB taught me words of God and live with it. My school taught me how to take care of God's creation and to be more responsible and productive son of God."—3rd Grader Brylle Reyel

■ "My ESFDB education will help me in the future because I am learning to be a hard worker and a good student. I have also learned to love God and other people. I know God loves us too."—7th Grader Aneshia Reyes

■ "I like ESFDB because we love one another just the way God does."—7th Grader Marjorie Banaag

■ "I'm thankful for ESFDB because it is a Catholic school. ESFDB teaches me faith, knowledge, and service. I learn faith by going to church or learning about God and all the saints. I learn knowledge by listening, learning, and following directions. I also learn service by helping my parents, elders, teachers, the church, and the community."—8th Grader Tyra Reese Calvo

Here's a look at Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja's schedule of events during Catholic Schools Week: Sunday: Kickoff day/Mass at 4pm; Monday: Face Painting Day; Tuesday: Mismatch Day; Wednesday: Visiting the Sick/Man'Amko; Thursday: Career Day; and Friday: Culmination/Family Night/Potluck Dinner.

This year's ESFDB Catholic Schools Week celebration is spearheaded by Florinda M. Chavez, class adviser for the first to third grades.

The administration, faculty, staff, and students would like to express their appreciation to the parents, Parent Teacher Organization officers, board of directors, Rev. Fr. Charlie Borja, Monsignor Louis Antonelli, Sen. Teresita Santos, Mateo and Rosita Santos, Board of Education member Tanya King, and Rota DPS officer Raimundo Manglona. (ESFDB)

All private schools invited to open membership meeting

The Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools is inviting all private schools in the CNMI to attend an open membership meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 3:30pm at Mount Carmel School's faculty lounge. The purpose of the meeting will be to allow current and prospective members of the coalition to submit required items for membership, as well as to move forward with several initiatives.

The CCOPS was founded in the late 1990s when the CNMI Board of Education eased its regulatory oversight over CNMI private schools and allowed private schools to self-regulate. Upon formation, the CCOPS set forth a mission to protect the right to autonomy and self-government of its member private schools; safeguard the representation of its member schools' interests in the consideration, development, and implementation of government laws and regulations; encourage and promote the wide diversity and variety of educational services offered by private schools; safeguard parents' rights to choose the educational program that would

fulfill the unique needs of their children; and ensure that high academic standards are maintained by member schools.

Since its founding, the CCOPS has represented private schools on the CNMI BOE by electing a non-public school representative to the BOE who is then appointed by the CNMI governor to the BOE. The CCOPS has also facilitated a number of interscholastic events among members, namely athletic competitions.

In recent years, the CCOPS has discussed numerous ways to ensure that minimum standards of educational quality are upheld by member institutions, including the possibility of requiring accreditation with an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Private schools on Rota and Tinian may also participate in the CCOPS meeting via Google Hangouts. For more information about the CCOPS, contact the CCOPS president, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, at galvin.deleonguerrero@gmail.com. (CCOPS)

OVR counselors to hold outreach in Susupe

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation counselors will be conducting an outreach session at the House of Manhoben, located behind the cemetery next to Susupe Chapel on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2015, from 9am to 11am.

Individuals interested in applying for vocational rehabilitation services are encouraged to take advantage of this outreach activity. Normally, orientation and intake/application are conducted at the OVR office on Navy Hill on Tuesday at 9am. However, in an effort to increase its referral numbers, OVR is reaching out to unserved or underserved populations.

An applicant is eligible for vocational rehabilitation services if the individual: 1) has a disability; 2) has a physical or mental impairment which for that individual constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment;

and can benefit in terms of an employment outcome from vocational rehabilitation services; 3) requires vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for, secure, or retain employment; and 4) has legal status to allow employment in the CNMI or United States.

OVR extends its appreciation to the Ayuda Network for coordinating and making the outreach possible.

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority provides transportation service for a fee of \$5 per ride for the general public (riders without disabilities), or \$3 per ride for approved riders with disabilities and the elderly aged 55 and over. Schedule your ride at least one day in advance by calling COTA at 664-2690. You can call this reservation line from Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm, and Saturday, 8am to 4pm. (OVR)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 30ish Birthday to the love of my life, husband of my dreams and an amazing father to my children, Joseph Tenorio Santos Jr. We hope you have an ASWESOME day. Wishing you all the best today and throughout the coming years. We love you forever!





The newly elected and appointed UFO officers are sworn in at the Fiesta Resort last Friday night.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

UFO inducts new officers

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The United Filipino Organizations inducted this year's newly elected and appointed officers during a ceremony at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan last Friday night.

Romeo D. Malasarte is the organization's new president; Fernando E. Enano is vice president; Pepito O. Reyes is secretary; and Evelyn B. Dezeata is treasurer.

Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres and Philippine Consul General Marciano De Borja in Guam were some of the night's special guests.

Torres recognized De Borja—who challenged him to a

karaoke contest during a meeting a day before—and remarked on the need for collaboration between the CNMI and Philippine governments to protect Filipino workers present in the Commonwealth.

Torres recognized UFO for cementing itself within the island community as an advocate for the people and as an active participant in island activities. He congratulated the new officers and wished them the best.

"As we head into a future bustling with new development and industries, we will have to trust upon the work ethic and skills of our Filipino brother and sisters more than ever. As the old saying goes, 'A single stick is easy to break, but many sticks

bundled together can be indestructible. Kind of like the coconut broom, the *walis tingting*," Torres said.

The lieutenant governor closed by saying that although many present could not vote in last November's elections, he was still their lieutenant governor and his door is open to them and their concerns.

In his speech, Malasarte highlighted the UFO's accomplishments over the past year and introduced a new volunteer and collaborative project called "Bantay Kapwa."

"The plan is to accept a dollar donation every month from many *kababayans* and that donation will serve as their membership fee to qualify for emer-

gency help," he said.

The president said they will be crafting strict conditions to avail of the welfare fund, which aims to help pay some portions their compatriots' medical emergency or the repatriation of remains.

Malasarte said they would also focus on transparency reports and strengthening the structural integrity of their organization, hoping that "this journey will leave a legacy for our organization."

UFO is known for its regular community events like the Mt. Tapochao Community Service every Holy Friday, *Pusong Pinoy*, *Pistang Pinoy*, as well as their participation in July 4th celebrations and sport events.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

UFO's Annamae Adaza presents a plaque of appreciation to Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres spoke at the induction ceremony last Friday.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

UFO executive officers are sworn in.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Consul General Marciano De Borja and Adaza present a plaque of appreciation to Tan Holdings' Eli Arago.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The lieutenant governor joins his wife and Consul General De Borja for a photo.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

UFO officials and guests pose for a photo.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Our union needs unity to move forward

In an era of increasingly grotesque wealth concentration and stubborn wage stagnation, shifting the federal tax burden from the middle toward the highest incomes shouldn't be as controversial as it is. Nevertheless, the proposal President Barack Obama put forward in his State of the Union address Tuesday, which would raise taxes on investments by hundreds of billions of dollars to fund credits for families of more modest means, is the Democratic counterpoint to endless Republican attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act: an appeal to popular and partisan sentiment that will go nowhere in the current political environment.

Bearing the scars of past attempts to bargain with Republicans, and having presided over the grueling path to an economic recovery that has finally gained momentum, Obama was certainly entitled to stake out the territory he hopes his party will stand for going into the next presidential election. But this State of the Union address was delivered to the most hostile Congress of his tenure, with Republicans in full control for the first time. If the last two years of Obama's presidency are to be more than a prelude to the next administration—and let's hold out fervent, if not desperate, hope that they will be—the president and Congress will have to do more than reiterate their favorite partisan attachments.

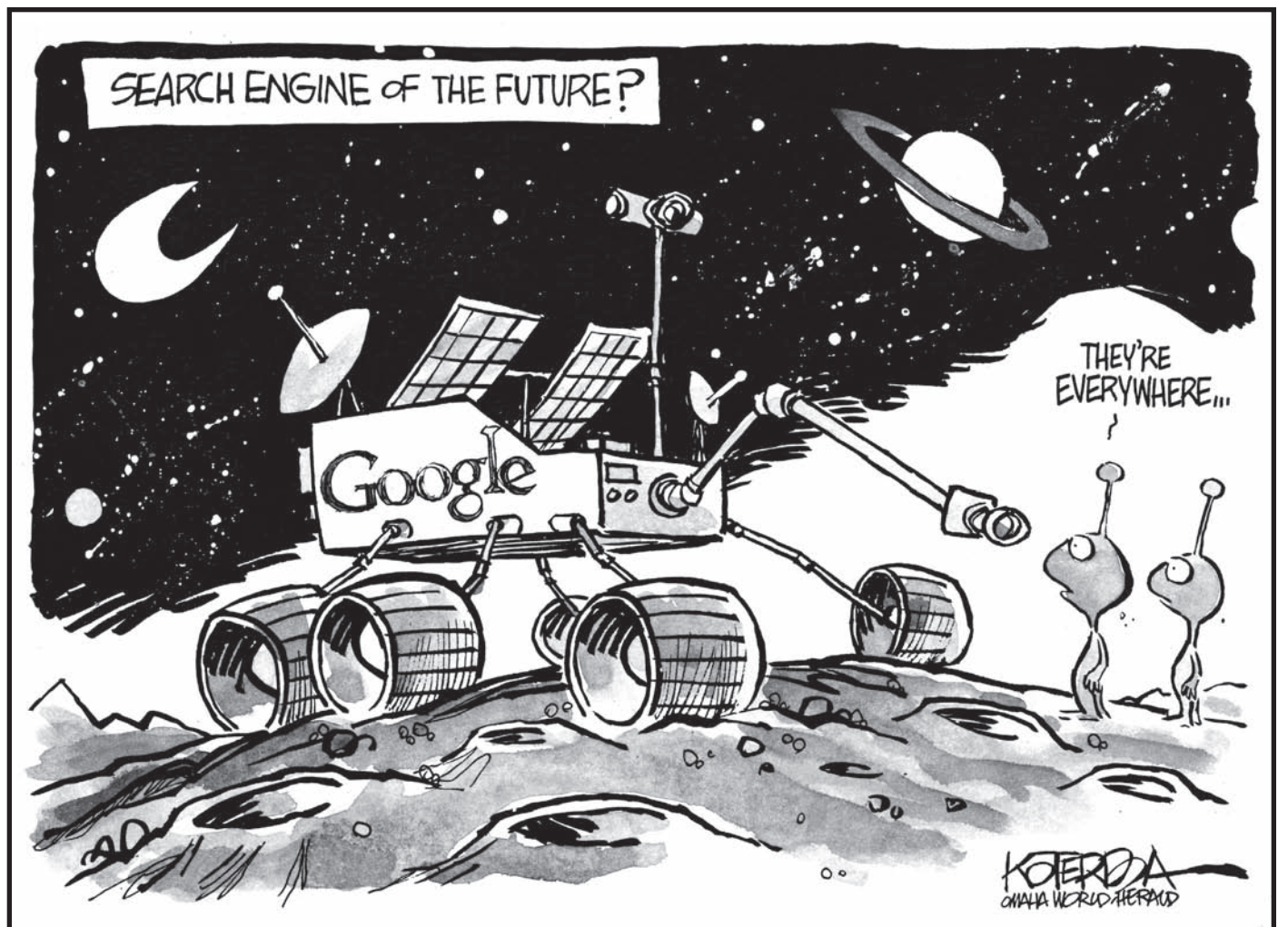
Some aspects of Obama's stated priorities in his "fourth quarter" could appeal to both teams. More tax credits and funding for child care, higher education and two-earner families should have broad resonance, especially as income inequality and stagnation have become a more bipartisan concern. Obama's stated support for more free-trade agreements and an authorization of use of force against Islamic State extremists also hold appeal for the party opposite.

To have any chance of advancing his legislative agenda amid divided government, Obama will have to make true concessions. The Keystone XL pipeline is one obvious opportunity, being not nearly as world-shaking as its enemies or friends have suggested. Completing the project simply isn't going to make or break global climate change or Canadian tar-sands exploitation. The president ought to unclog the project in exchange for Republican movement on one of his initiatives.

Obama previously proposed corporate-tax reductions, a concession that could be the basis for a larger tax-reform deal. Both the president and Republican leaders have expressed support for such a negotiation.

Of course, the dominant theme on both sides—and the safest prediction—is polarization. But any substantial improvement of the government's collective state is unlikely without a degree of union.

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Nip-and-tuck

A friend on Saipan came back from an extended holiday in Minnesota properly *nipped and tucked* ("nip" is to *tweak* and "tuck" is to *pleat and fold* in cosmetic surgery terms), and very proud of it. I was given the impression that it was done for my sake.

Chosen for her girlish ways though a couple of years my senior, with requisite wrinkles prominently in display, I was flabbergasted to see the skin pulled and taut, a grotesque change though her friends thought it splendid. That began the denouement of what otherwise was a growing loving relationship. Not finger pointing to a fault or flaw, I simply recognize a difference in view.

A previous relationship is not the object of our reflection. It is the culture of nip-and-tuck permeating SoKor, rendering the cheaper local surgical procedure in *Dong Bei* a tourist attraction.

I noticed this in the early '80s when the SoKor economy turned robust, and the *bulgogi* (marinated meat) and *chap chae* (noodles and veggies) moved off the wealthy's fare into the dining tables of Korea's *lumpenproletariat* and *hoi polloi*. Tummy overhang and double chin were no longer uncommon, culturally desired as a sign of wealth and progress; but the younger generations' wrinkles gave way to the surgical scalpel that saw increased sale of padded *Victoria's Secret* bras.

Japan's cosmetic surgery flourished, welcomed the opening of Korea's market, which in turn became upscale, pushing the trade across the Yalu to *Dong Bei* where I reside. Scalpels from Harbin to Dalian suddenly became popular, and as Protestant Christians sanctified wealth as a divine gift, so did being of good looks for the *hanggul saram* (South Koreans) sacral!

A colleague in Liaoning early on went for dental surgery that was botched and the dentist's office forked out \$50,000 to settle out of court. It is not unusual for 20-year-old students in my class to be wearing braces; professionals get implants to install permanent teeth to avoid the "embarrassment" of removable dentures.

The Philippines, sophisticated in medical and dental science practice, has been a hub for the growth industry of cosmetic surgery. An aunt, Dad's sister, married a respected dentist, and their twin mastered dental probes, picks, mirrors, and burs. It used to be that expats in other places came to order *postisos* (dentures), or get chipped teeth patched in Pinas. Not any more, convenient and affordable implants are no longer uncommon.

So has nip-and-tuck. Many of my schoolmates went into the medical, dental, and nursing professions. They are not a suffering tribe. Their palatial homes dwarf my austere 3-bedroom abode in *Dong Bei*, and I live in a community of the *crème de la crème* of Shenbei in Shenyang!

The nip-and-tuck was a *burgis* (Pinoy's bourgeoisie) privilege done in healthy surroundings abroad, or cheaply per-

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



formed in backrooms as the practice was not only socially unacceptable but also religiously heretical. The wonder and awe of divine creation and the creative process is not to be messed with (says *Señor Francesca Argentina il Pappa* in last week's visit to the land of Prinsipe Felipe), so as a matter of Church teaching, contraceptives remain a firm "no-no."

Like the pill that is widely used by Pinoy Catholics, bolstered by Noynoy Aquino's legislative triumph on family planning, the nip-and-tuck crowd equally increased even among Roman Catholics, without the stigma associated with the procedure.

While I resided in Canada and the U.S., I made periodic Pea Eye trips travelling through HK on my way just to get used to the mass of humanity that I confronted and be accosted by, the faces of mass *delihensiya* at the International Airport, later named after Ninoy Aquino. Living in China, I am inured to mass humanity, but to the culture of youth that leads numerous grannies to wear Levi's, and the well-stocked cosmetic sections of duty-free shops that earns their keep simply with their supply of "whitening" cream, the *jia* (fake) look is in vogue.

With implants for dentures, the light-skin-of-being preferred over the shades of tan, and the plethora of youthful accoutrement in department store's boutique cosmetics, the future no longer requires surgical nip-and-tuck.

Going through Ninoy Aquino International Airport with its ample display of nipped-and-tucked denizens, we are struck by the irony of a place named after a guy who made a serious political statement with his life, surrounded by the trappings and paraphernalia that is no more than mirage and illusion, and the mockery is commercial sarcasm objectified by the shallowness of resolves to vanquish age-long economic inequity and unwilling to pour out contents of sparsely lined purses to the cause of justice. *Delihensiya* remains the cultural ethos.

I'll hang on to my tummy overhang, and keep the second chin to jiggle at the wrinkles when I giggle. I hold a reading glass handy and install Velcro on the shoe. China holds and looks at rotund characters as blessedly endowed. Blimey, I am.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Reforming the CNMI healthcare system

By GRANT E. WALKER, M.D.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The following is the testimony offered by orthopedic surgeon Dr. Grant E. Walker in reference to Senate Bill 19-04, which proposes to transform the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. advisory board into a governing body. This testimony has been submitted to the Senate and House Health Care Committees.

First of a five-part series

Thank you, honorable representatives and senators, for this opportunity to address you regarding healthcare reform and Senate Bill 19-04, previously known as Senate Bill 18-52.

Sen. Teresita Santos has my résumé on file. In short, as an electrical engineer I had a large hand in designing the baseball stadium in Calgary, Alberta, and the Medicine Hat Hospital in Alberta. I was also the lead engineer for a children's hospital, two schools, and a pregnancy home for teens.

I graduated from Albany Medical College, which has proudly educated six or seven Nobel laureates in medicine. An orthopedic surgery residency is five years and I graduated from the county hospital in Phoenix, Arizona. I did a yearlong fellowship in spine surgery under Gary Lowery, M.D., Ph.D., the finest surgeon I have ever witnessed. Dr. Lowery has published over 150 peer-reviewed scientific papers and his chapters are in more than 15 textbooks. For 25 years he has lectured at medical meetings both domestically and abroad. There is no one in spine surgery academia on the lecture circuit or actively publishing that does

not know Dr. Lowery, inventor of many of our spine implants.

One of the proudest moments is when I see a resident orthopedic surgeon whom I trained perform a procedure the way I do it. It isn't because I invented it; I was taught.

I have never had a malpractice suit even entered, after hundreds of spine surgeries and hundreds of orthopedic surgeries. I am board certified in the U.S. and am a sitting member of the 2014-2015 Orthopedic Certification Board ABPS.

An unusual series of events led me into reading and understanding the current state of healthcare governance in the CNMI. What unfolded became a blessing in disguise. I was blessed to be professionally mentored by some of the finest academic medical minds in America and after 28 years in U.S. healthcare I had a unique vantage point to see the good and the bad of Public Law 16-51. SB 19-04 isn't about me. It isn't about some patch or quick fix between the CHCC CEO and board of trustees. What an opportunity it is to overhaul the governance and oversight of the CNMI healthcare and to address the underserved. Just as James Madison drafted the first 10 Amendments to the Constitution that became the Bill of Rights, each lawmaker that touches 19-04 has the ability, perhaps the responsibility, to put a legal set of rights in place to make sure that no one person or small group of persons can place their self-determined personal gains above your God-given right to healthcare access. Healthcare should be included in a government, "by the people, for the people" (Abraham Lincoln).

There are going to be discussions and some of these are going to lead to disagreements. Madison did not draft his work overnight but, from your state-of-the-art 75-bed hospital born 35 years ago until today, I think that everyone can agree that

something has to be done. Diabetes is at an all-time high. The great people of Tinian and Rota do not have hospitals on their islands and seem to have been left behind as CHC chases its CMS Medicare woes. Medical specialists are absent from the healthcare portfolio and there is no reason whatsoever that any American should have to travel to the Philippines for an increase in the standard of healthcare delivery!

Good ideas come to people, great ideas are developed and mine aren't afraid of heights. From the vantage of my eyes, I saw a patient in the emergency room that had fallen and broke his hip. This elderly man in his 70's was of Japanese descent and was tough on people. He came from Tinian and the ordeal that his family went through to get him transferred to CHC was atrocious and painful. I began to see many like this from Tinian and Rota. I felt privileged to be there to help him and others this time, since there had not been an orthopedic surgeon at CHC for more than a year and there were stories about the one before that.

I was asked to use O.R. sutures that were expired in sterility date because that was all they had. The operating room was humble, respectfully embarrassed and apologetic. They were sincere beyond belief. They asked for supplies, knew that Medicare paid the same reimbursement as the mainland but somehow there were always excuses given of no money available.

I saw hardworking and caring Internal Medicine doctors seeing a patient load of 25 to 28 patients. I was told that I would be given a car in order to transport myself to the emergency room 24/7, which I then had to give my credit card and reimbursement was refused.

To be continued tomorrow.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks for pot legalization bill but...

Iwant to sincerely thank our new Sen. Sixto Igisomar for introducing a bill to legalize marijuana for medical use. It's about time. There are a lot of supporters for legalization who knew that it would be a new and young member of our Legislature who would understand modern times and have the wisdom and fortitude to legalize it. Kudos to you, senator, and thank you for getting the ball rolling on this important and critical issue as this is the kind of thing that most voters want and expect from our new leaders—a new attitude with the desire to champion old issues that have lingered for entirely too long.

While it is great that the senator will introduce medical legalization, there is still an overwhelming desire of CNMI supporters for full legalization on medicinal and recreational use. The *man'amko* will be the first to tell you that medicinal use has been in existence before medical use ever since marijuana was introduced in the CNMI back during the Trust Territory days by the Peace Corps, who first brought seeds to the islands. There is also the fact that the real financial benefit of the new and growing marijuana industry is in recreational use, not medical. It is well documented that medical use alone will forever be challenged and full of loopholes when it comes to accountability. There will certainly be those seeking to circumvent and exploit the medical use system of sales, leading to more marijuana crimes instead of eliminating all marijuana crimes. In fact, people are already talking about how they can manipulate or circumvent a medical marijuana system.

We must understand and realize that ordinary people who are not sick are going to use marijuana for recreational purposes regardless! So do we fix the entire problem or put a medical Band Aid on the issue, only to let it linger until we see full legalization in Guam and the rest of America—the dead last phenomenon again. We need to become leaders in the marijuana reforms that are sweeping America, which are being pushed by the President himself, who said on national TV, "We must move forward with marijuana reforms and stop locking up our youth for something most adults have tried." It's obvious and has been observed in the annals of legalization that, with only medical use being legal, we will still be locking up our youth for something most adults have tried. "Medical use only" falls short of society's expectation and even the equality principle

of legalizing it for everyone, which is why we must take the leap to full legalization.

It is high time we put the ridiculous marijuana war to rest and take a serious look at full legalization through the moratorium I proposed and then put it to a vote by the people. Marijuana and its use can never be eradicated so if we are to learn to live with it and catch up to Guam and the rest of America, we need to take the full leap as Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon, and Washington, D.C. have. Yes, even our nation's capital allows recreational use. So do we really want to reject hundreds of millions that we can earn in the newest and fastest growing billion-dollar industry in America? Do we really want to wait until Guam legalizes recreational use and take all the market for tourists from Asia who want to smoke? Or do we become the competitor we should be and move a step ahead of Guam, as Guam leaders are already talking about recreational use because of the tremendous voting support realized in the recent election for legalization.

The CNMI has been chasing and trying to be like Guam since the Trust Territory days and we still haven't caught up in many areas and we won't unless we take a new attitude and start competing for tourists like we should. Competition is healthy and it breeds quality and improvements so let's compete with Guam instead of following Guam, like we have done for decades. I'm sure there are a lot of us hoping that the senator and the Legislature will improve on the bill and give us full legalization and not just a medical Band Aid that will surely be torn off by many and exploited to the fullest extent. We can easily expect all kinds of fraud and manipulation to get medical marijuana, creating more crime for the justice system.

There are many of us truly thankful for your efforts, senator, and please don't take this personal and view my constructive comments as an attack on your bill because you have done a great service to get legalization on the table again. In fact, you have restored some faith in our government to lead and act on lingering issues that need to be championed. But it is obvious we can build on your bill to create an even better legislation that will better serve us all economically and not just those needing a form of medical treatment as this is not a special interest issue for a few. So let's get real and make all legalization stakeholders and supporters happy!

P.S.: FYI, readers, Guam approved medical use with over 18,000 of the 22,000 votes—an 81 percent approval so we know it is just a matter of time before they legalize it for recreational use. I also want to remind readers that I worked hard to try and get the CNMI ahead on interisland transportation and commerce in the Marianas with a ferry system that was killed. Now Guam, which is already the hub for the airline market in the Marianas, is working hard to create their own ferry system to fully control the tourists and even commerce in the Marianas! There is nothing wrong with healthy competition between the CNMI and Guam but we had better learn and be willing

to compete or we will be left behind again and again, never to catch up with Guam's economic prosperity. The last I heard the minimum wage in Guam, just 79 miles away, is \$7.75 and going up. This is your wake-up call for full legalization!

Ambrose M Bennett

Kagman, Saipan

Thanks for a historic day

All of our families would like to express our sincere gratitude to Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres for your blessings and support for the creation of the new Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services. Words cannot begin to express how much we appreciate the author of this law, 18-57 SD-2, our Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres.

We're proud to be here today with the leadership that we have. What a wonderful day today is. It is truly a monumental and historic day for the CNMI's firefighters. Our governor and lieutenant governor have listened and taken us on this road and today we are proud to say that we are officially a Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. We are so pleased and happy to be a part of this history.

When you live in a small community for a very long time, you build relationships that last a lifetime. We are all a big part of the CNMI. The island community of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota have shown their incredible and overwhelming support. The feedback from everyone was extremely positive. We love you and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

There are too many people and businesses to name for fear we would forget someone. Throughout the grace of God, and all the support we have received, we have walked through this difficult journey knowing that we are not alone.

So, on behalf of all the firefighters, families and supporters, we could like to thank sincerely our Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres who helped make today a reality of our long time dream. We thank you again, sir.

There is nothing like the brotherhood of the Fire Department. Firefighters/EMS are called to act in extreme circumstances on a moment's notice. This is an important milestone that is not just about cutting checks but about supporting those who do so much everyday to keep us all safe.


Jayendran A. Jairam
Norman Jean DLC Jairam

Kannat Tabla, Saipan

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian


TODAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
East winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲88° ▼77°


WEDNESDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
East winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲88° ▼77°


THURSDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼77°


FRIDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼77°

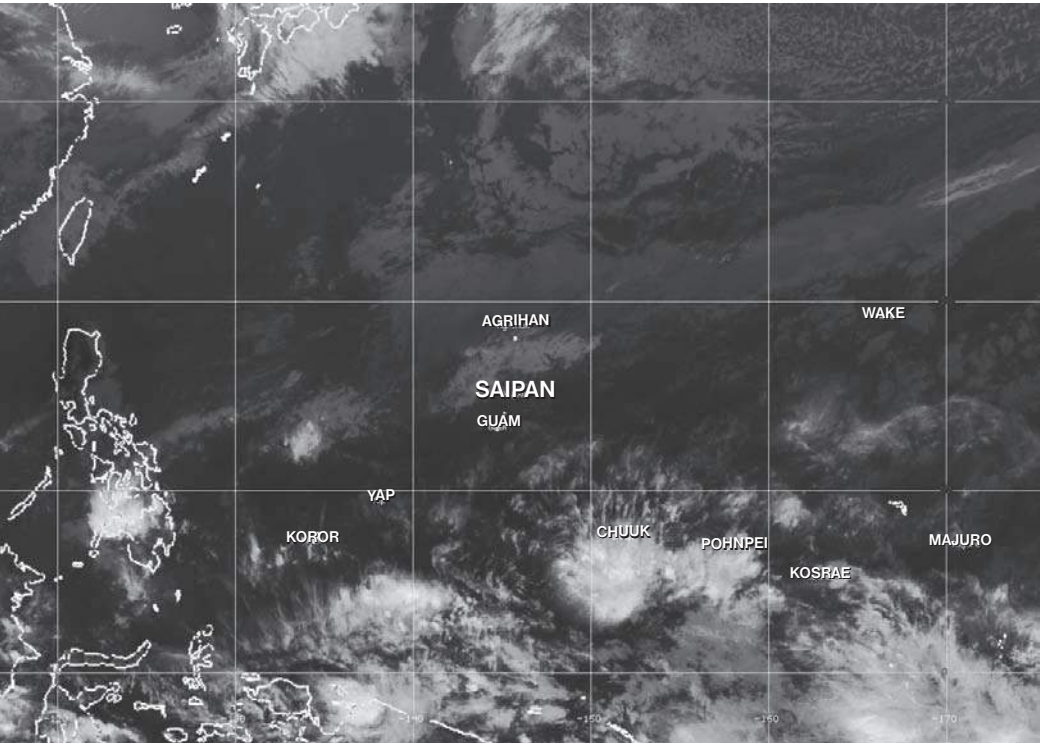
SATURDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image




PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from northeast of Wake Island at 25N172E to just north of Saipan at 16N146E to beyond 130E at 12N. Cloudiness and patchy showers are found along and up to 250 miles north of the shear line mostly to the east of 140E. A near-equatorial trough stretches eastward from 2N130E to EQ170E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms far south of Koror and Yap are within 75 miles of a line from 3N135E to 3N143E to 1N147E and just south of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae within 125 miles of a line from 7N152E to 2N162E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Showers	▲84	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼78
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Windy	▲83	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼65
Beijing	Sunny	▲36	▼18
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼59
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼68
London	Showers	▲50	▼37
Los Angeles	Showers	▲68	▼52
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼69
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼54
Miami	Showers	▲76	▼53
New York	Snow	▲29	▼27
Osaka	Showers	▲55	▼36
Paris	Showers	▲49	▼36
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼25
Rome	Sunny	▲56	▼37
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼44
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼54
Seoul	Sunny	▲33	▼14
Tokyo	Rain	▲61	▼40
Washington, DC	Ice	▲38	▼32



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
12:51 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
6:46 AM	Today	LOW Tide:	0.6 Feet
12:59 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
8:13 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:15 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:15 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	11:56 AM	
Wednesday	12:44 AM	12:49 AM
Thursday	1:33 PM	1:43 AM
Friday	2:22 PM	2:37 AM
Saturday	3:13 PM	3:29 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3	UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota	UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5	UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4	UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5	UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5	UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7	UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7	UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)				PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily	OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM	UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM	UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
				UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
				UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM	OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM	UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM	UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM	UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
				UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
				UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
				UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.								
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
			8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily			
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	ROTA TO SAIPAN		
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily						
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily						

Business

Greek radical left wins election, threatening market turmoil

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—A radical left-wing party vowing to end Greece's painful austerity program won a historic victory in Sunday's parliamentary elections, setting up a showdown with the country's international creditors that could shake the eurozone.

Alexis Tsipras, leader of the communist-rooted Syriza party, immediately promised to end the "five years of humiliation and

pain" that Greece has endured since an international bailout saved it from bankruptcy in 2010.

"The verdict of the Greek people ends, beyond any doubt, the vicious circle of austerity in our country," Tsipras told a crowd of rapturous flag-waving supporters.

Syriza appeared just shy of the majority that would allow it to govern alone. With 97.6 percent



AP
Supporters of Germany's left-wing Die Linke party, hold placards as they show their support to Alexis Tsipras, leader of Syriza left-wing party after his speech to supporters in central Athens, late Sunday, Jan. 25, 2015.

a quarter of its economy wiped out, unemployment above 25 percent and average income losses of at least 30 percent.

Tsipras won on promises to demand debt forgiveness and renegotiate the terms of Greece's 240 billion euro (\$270 billion) bailout, which has kept the debt-ridden country afloat since mid-2010.

To qualify for the cash, Greece has had to impose deep and bitterly resented cuts in public spending, wages and pensions, along with public sector layoffs and repeated tax increases.

Samaras soon conceded defeat Sunday, saying he had received a country "on the brink of disaster" when he took over in 2012 and was close to ushering it out of the crisis.

Dig deeper into reasons behind your poor performance review

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of *Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.



Q: I recently received a very upsetting performance review. My supervisor prefaced this evaluation by saying, "Don't be alarmed by the numbers. These reviews are just to show that people are doing their jobs, so I never give anyone high ratings." She then handed me a form showing that, on our 1-4 rating scale, I had received all twos.

As an employee, I have always tried to go above and beyond what was expected. All my previous appraisals have been good, and even though it sounds conceited, I would have given myself a high rating on this one. Having such a bad review on my record could make future transfers or promotions difficult. What should I do about this?

A: Something fishy is going on here. I don't know why you received a poor evaluation, but I do know that your manager isn't telling you everything. The fact that she "never gives high ratings" doesn't explain a review which is consistently below average. You received these scores for a reason, so someone owes you an explanation.

If your boss tends to avoid tough discussions, she may have been harboring concerns about your performance for quite awhile. Wimpy managers often give no sign that anything is wrong, then shock employees with negative comments at review time. Changes in upper management might also have led to an unspoken shift in expectations.

Another possibility is that your organization has modified the appraisal guidelines. Sometimes, for example, management becomes concerned about "ratings inflation" and

directs supervisors to use fewer high scores. Of course, this would still not explain why all your numbers were so low.

Since the appraisal process is typically overseen by human resources, see if your HR manager can either offer an explanation or investigate possible inequities. But whatever you do, don't ignore this warning sign. Unless you resolve whatever issues led to these disappointing ratings, your next review is liable to look just like this one.

Q: Earlier this year, I took some complaints about my supervisor to upper management. Now my coworkers and I have been asked to attend a meeting with our supervisor, his boss and the department director. We are apparently being given an opportunity to openly criticize him in the presence of his superiors. This feels like a bad idea to me. What's your opinion?

A: The person who initiated this public flogging should be banned from management. Not only is it a horrible ordeal for your supervisor, but if he remains in that role, he will not feel kindly towards those who participated. A more effective and humane approach would be to gather information confidentially, then provide appropriate coaching in private.

If you can find a valid reason to be out of the office that day, consider making yourself scarce. But if you must attend the meeting, limit your participation and choose your words with extreme care. And if this tactic accurately represents your organization's leadership style, you might consider finding a less mediocrity place to work.

of polling stations counted, Syriza had 36.4 percent—and 149 of parliament's 300 seats—versus 27.8 percent for Prime Minister Antonis Samaras' conservatives.

If Tsipras, 40, can put together a government, he will be Greece's youngest prime minister in 150 years, while Syriza

would be the first radical left party to ever govern the country.

The prospect of an anti-bailout government coming to power in Greece has revived fears of a bankruptcy that could reverberate across the eurozone, send shockwaves through global markets and undermine the

euro, the currency shared by 19 European countries.

The already battered euro was down 0.3 percent Monday, at \$1.117, on the news of Syriza's victory. That was its lowest since April 2003.

Syriza's rhetoric appealed to many in a country that has seen

Blizzard expected for 250-mile stretch of Northeast

NEW YORK (AP)—A "potentially historic" storm could dump 2 to 3 feet of snow from northern New Jersey to southern Maine starting Monday, crippling a region that has largely been spared so far this winter, the National Weather Service said.

A blizzard warning was issued for a 250-mile stretch of the Northeast, including New York and Boston, and the National Weather Service said the massive storm would bring heavy snow, powerful winds and widespread coastal flooding starting Monday and through Tuesday.

"This could be a storm the likes of which we have never seen before," New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said at a

news conference Sunday.

De Blasio held up a piece of paper showing the city's top 10 snowstorms and said this one could land at the top of a list that goes back to 1872, including the 26.9 inches that fell in 2006. "Don't underestimate this storm. Prepare for the worst," he said as he urged residents to plan to leave work early Monday.

Boston is expected to get 18 to 24 inches of snow, with up to 3 feet west of the city, and Philadelphia could see 14 to 18 inches, the weather service said.

"We do anticipate very heavy snowfall totals," said Bob Oravec, lead forecaster with the weather service in College Park, Maryland. "In addition to heavy snow, with blizzard

warnings, there's a big threat of high, damaging winds, and that will be increasing Monday into Tuesday. A lot of blowing, drifting and such."

Wind gusts of 75 mph or more are possible for coastal areas of Massachusetts, and up to 50 mph further inland, Oravec said.

Airlines prepared to shut down operations along the East Coast, leading to the expected cancellation of more than 1,400 flights scheduled for Monday, according to the flight tracking site FlightAware.

A weekend storm that had brought snow and slush to the Northeast—the first real snow of the season for many areas—was just a warm-up.

"Looks like our luck is about to run out," said John Paulsen as he gassed up his SUV in New Jersey. "I can't complain too much since we've had a pretty mild winter, but I don't know if I'm ready for a foot or so of snow all at once."

The storm system driving out of the Midwest brought several inches of snow to Ohio on Sunday and was expected to ultimately spread from the nation's capital to Maine for a "crippling and potentially historic blizzard," the National Weather Service said.

The Washington area expected only a coating or a bit more, with steadily increasing amounts as the storm plods its way north.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

US gas prices fell 13 cents per gallon, but expected to rise

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—The average price of a regular gallon of gas dropped 13 cents in the past two weeks to \$2.07, but it could soon rise. Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg said Sunday that the lowest prices in more than five years are likely to increase because of rising wholesale prices. Lundberg says rising costs of crude oil the past 10 days should eventually be seen at the pump. San Francisco continued to have the highest-priced gas in the Lower 48 states at \$2.54 a gallon. Albuquerque, New Mexico, remained lowest at \$1.73 a gallon. Lundberg says prices at the pump are \$1.24 lower than this

time last year. The average price in California was \$2.43 a gallon. The average national price for midgrade gas is \$2.31. For premium, it's \$2.47.

Airlines prepare to shut down in Northeast for snowstorm

Airlines are preparing to shut down operations along the East Coast as a major snowstorm packing up to three feet of snow barrels down on the region. More than 1,400 flights scheduled for Monday are expected to be cancelled, according to the flight tracking site FlightAware. Most major airlines are allowing customers whose flights are canceled in the next few days to book new flights without

paying a penalty. Customers ticketed on flights to dozens of Eastern airports are generally eligible for the allowance, though specific terms vary by airline. The National Weather Service predicts 2 to 3 feet of snow for a 250-mile stretch of the Northeast, including the New York and Boston areas. Philadelphia should get 14 to 18 inches. (AP)

Romanians protest Swiss franc loans repayments

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)—Hundreds of people have protested in Romania against high repayments for Swiss franc loans, blaming the banks for offering deceptively cheap loans and calling

on the government to regulate hard currency loans. "The bank tricked us!" yelled up to 1,000 demonstrators gathered in a downtown square. "You have the power, we have the pain!" read one banner. About 75,000 Romanians have loans in Swiss francs, taking them out during the economic boom of the mid-2000s, because they had a lower interest rate. They have been hit by a strong franc and even more so after the Swiss National Bank abolished its currency ceiling this month causing the franc to increase by 40 percent against the euro. Lawmakers are discussing implementing rules to protect people who take out hard currency loans.

Nation

Millions of GMO insects could be set loose in Florida Keys

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP)—Millions of genetically modified mosquitoes could be released in the Florida Keys if British researchers win approval to use the bugs against two extremely painful viral diseases.

Never before have insects with modified DNA come so close to being set loose in a residential U.S. neighborhood.

"This is essentially using a mosquito as a drug to cure disease," said Michael Doyle, executive director of the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District, which is waiting to hear if the Food and Drug Administration will allow the experiment.

Dengue and chikungunya are growing threats in the U.S., but some people are more frightened at the thought of being bitten by a genetically modified organism. More than 130,000 signed a Change.org petition against the experiment.

Even potential boosters say those responsible must do more to show that benefits outweigh the risks.

"I think the science is fine, they definitely can kill mosquitoes, but the GMO issue still sticks as something of a thorny issue for the general public," said Phil Lounibos, who studies mosquito control at the Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory. "It's not even so much about the science—you can't go ahead with something like this if public opinion is negative."

Mosquito controllers say they're running out of options that can kill *Aedes aegypti*, a tiger-striped invader whose biting



In this Thursday, Oct. 4, 2012 file photo, Brittany Mariscal, an entomological technician with the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District, sorts and counts dead captured mosquitoes under a microscope in Key West, Fla.

females spread these viruses. Climate change and globalization are spreading tropical diseases farther from the equator, and Key West, the southernmost city in the continental U.S., is particularly vulnerable.

"An arriving person would be infectious for several days, and could infect many of the local mosquitoes," Doyle said. "Within a few weeks you'd likely end up with several infected mosquitoes for each infected visitor."

There are no vaccines or cures

for dengue, known as "break-bone fever," or chikungunya, which causes painful contortions. U.S. cases remain rare for now, but dengue sickens 50 million people annually worldwide and kills 2.5 percent of the half-million who get severe cases, according to the World Health Organization. Chikungunya has already overwhelmed hospitals and harmed economies across the Caribbean after infecting a million people in the region last year.

Insecticides are sprayed year-round from helicopters and door-

to-door in charming and crowded neighborhoods throughout the Keys. But because *Aedes aegypti* don't travel much and are repeatedly doused with the same chemicals, they have evolved to resist four of the six insecticides used to kill them.

Enter Oxitec, a British biotech firm launched by Oxford University researchers. They patented a method of breeding *Aedes aegypti* with fragments of proteins from the herpes simplex virus and *E. coli* bacteria as well as genes from coral and

cabbage. This synthetic DNA has been used in thousands of experiments without harming lab animals, but it is fatal to the bugs, killing mosquito larvae before they can fly or bite.

Oxitec's lab workers manually remove modified females, aiming to release only males, which feed on nectar and don't bite for blood like females do. The modified males then mate with wild females whose offspring die, reducing the population.

Oxitec has built a breeding lab in Marathon and hopes to re-

lease its mosquitoes this spring in Key Haven, a neighborhood of 444 homes closely clustered on a relatively isolated peninsula at the north end of Key West.

FDA spokeswoman Theresa Eisenman said no field tests will be allowed until the agency has "thoroughly reviewed all the necessary information."

Company spokeswoman Chris Creese said the test will be similar in size to Oxitec's 2012 experiment in the Cayman Islands, where 3.3 million modified mosquitoes were released over six months, suppressing 96 percent of the targeted bugs. Oxitec says a later test in Brazil also was successful, and both countries now want larger-scale projects.

But critics accused Oxitec of failing to obtain informed consent in the Caymans, saying residents weren't told they could be bitten by a few stray females overlooked in the lab.

Instead, Oxitec said only non-biting males would be released, and that even if humans were somehow bitten, no genetically modified DNA would enter their bloodstream.

Neither claim is entirely true, outside observers say.

"What Oxitec is trying to spin is that it's highly improbable that there will be negative consequences of this foreign DNA entering someone that's bitten by an Oxitec mosquito," said Lounibos. "I'm on their side, in that consequences are highly unlikely. But to say that there's no genetically modified DNA that might get into a human, that's kind of a gray matter."

Obama seeks bigger wilderness designation in Alaska refuge

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—President Barack Obama is proposing to designate the vast majority of Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as a wilderness area, including its potentially oil-rich coastal plain, drawing an angry response from top state elected officials who see it as a land grab by the federal government.

"They've decided that today was the day that they were going to declare war on Alaska. Well, we are ready to engage," said U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, and chair of the Senate energy committee.

The designation would set aside an additional nearly 12.3

million acres as wilderness, including the coastal plain near Alaska's northeast corner, giving it the highest degree of federal protection available to public lands. More than 7 million acres of the refuge currently are managed as wilderness.

The refuge's coastal plain has long been at the center of the struggle between conservationists and advocates of greater energy exploration in the U.S. Political leaders in Alaska have supported allowing for exploration and production within the coastal plain. They have opposed attempts to further restrict development on federal lands,

which comprise about two-thirds of the state, including within the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

A resolution passed the state Legislature with bipartisan support last year urging Congress to allow for exploration and development on the coastal plain. A federal lawsuit brought by the state over the Interior Department's refusal to consider a proposed exploration plan for the refuge's coastal plain is pending. The state in 2013 proposed an exploration plan that it said was aimed at determining the true oil and gas potential in the refuge.

The Republican congressio-

nal delegation, along with Alaska's new governor, Bill Walker, sent out a joint news release Sunday morning calling the action "an unprecedented assault on Alaska." Walker changed his GOP affiliation to undeclared in running for office last year.

Walker told reporters in Anchorage that while he is not leaning toward litigation, the state is reviewing its options. He said this is one more example of a restriction that the federal government wants to put on Alaska. He wants to reach out to other governors in hopes of banding together to fight the proposal, Walker said.

'Death-qualified' juror search slows marathon, theater cases

BOSTON (AP)—One prospective juror was brutally frank when asked whether he could consider a sentence of life in prison for the man accused of bombing the Boston Marathon.

"I would sentence him to death," he said, then added: "I can't imagine any evidence that would change how I feel about what happened."

Another prospective juror said

he couldn't even consider the death penalty, telling the court, "I just can't kill another person."

The two men are on opposite sides of the capital punishment debate, but both unlikely to make it on the jury for the trial of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev: to be seated for a death penalty case a juror must be willing—but not eager—to hand down a sentence of either life or death.

The process of finding "death qualified" jurors has slowed down jury selection in federal case against Tsarnaev, who is charged with setting off two bombs that killed three people and injured more than 260 during the 2013 marathon. It is expected to do the same in the state trial of James Holmes, the man accused of killing 12 people and injuring 70 others in

a suburban Denver movie theater in 2012.

The process is designed to weed out jurors who have strong feelings for or against the death penalty. A 1985 ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court said a juror can lawfully be excused if his views on the death penalty are so strong that they would prevent or substantially impair his ability to follow the law.

Residents: Police shortage is a security risk for Mardi Gras

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Throughout the quieter parts of the French Quarter, residents and businesses have posted signs that read "Caution: Walk in Large Groups. We (heart) N.O.P.D. We Just Need More."

It's an unsettling message about violent crime in the Big Easy for the 1 million revelers about to descend for Carnival season, which this year ends on Feb. 17, Fat Tuesday.

The signs are an embarrassment for a city that likes to say how safe it makes Mardi Gras year in and year out, despite the debauchery. During Carnival, the streets crawl not only with partiers but with cops, state troopers, federal agents and private security officers.

Despite their presence, shootings have occurred in nightclubs, on Bourbon Street, or along Carnival parade routes—many of which end at or near the Quarter—in at least eight of the past 11 years. At least 27 people

were injured and one killed in those attacks.

Since November, a series of more than 60 robberies in and around the Quarter has shocked residents and sparked outrage directed not so much at the New Orleans Police Department but at Mayor Mitch Landrieu, who is pushing back against complaints that he paints a too-flattering picture of his crime-fighting efforts.

Fears have been stoked by images of the attacks caught by a growing network of private surveillance cameras. The attackers have used knives, guns, fists, sharp objects, pepper spray and even purses on pedestrians.

"These are crimes of opportunity, these people are lying in wait," said Harry Widmann, a lawyer whose California colleague was beaten unconscious in December after he was attacked on his way back to his hotel. "You need to have a police presence."

Asia

Obama, Modi declare era of 'new trust' in US-India relations

NEW DELHI (AP)—President Barack Obama and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday declared an era of “new trust” in the often fraught relationship between their nations as the U.S. leader opened a three-day visit to New Delhi.

Standing side by side at the stately Hyderabad House, Obama and Modi cited progress toward putting in place a landmark civil nuclear agreement, as well as advances on climate change and defense ties.

But from the start, the day was more about putting their personal bond on display. Modi broke with protocol and wrapped Obama in an enthusiastic hug after Obama got off Air Force One.

Obama later told reporters that Modi’s “strong personal commitment to the U.S.-India relationship gives us an opportunity to further energize these efforts.”

Modi was as effusive. He called Obama by his first name and said “the chemistry that has brought Barack and me closer has also brought Washington and Delhi closer.”

The centerpiece of Obama’s visit was Monday’s annual Republic Day festivities, which got underway on a foggy, rain-soaked morning in New Delhi. The crowd erupted in cheers as Obama, along with first lady Michelle Obama, emerged from his armored black limousine and took his seat next to Modi on a viewing stand overlooking the parade route.

Republic Day marks the anniversary of India’s democratic constitution going into force. The parade, which weaves its way past the imposing India Gate monument and a memorial



AP
In this Sunday, Jan. 25, 2015 photo, U.S. President Barack Obama, watches first lady Michelle Obama shakes hand with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as Indian President Pranab Mukherjee stands beside her during a receiving line before State Dinner at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the presidential palace, in New Delhi, India.

to the unknown soldier, is part Soviet-style display of India’s military hardware, part Macy’s Thanksgiving Day-type parade with floats highlighting India’s cultural diversity.

Obama’s presence would have been unlikely only a few years ago.

Relations between the U.S. and India hit a low in 2013 after an Indian diplomat was arrested and strip-searched in New York over allegations that she lied on visa forms to bring her maid to the U.S. while paying the woman a pittance. The official’s treatment caused outrage in New Delhi, and India retaliated against U.S. diplomats.

The U.S. and India also were at an impasse over implementing the civil nuclear agreement signed in 2008. The U.S. insisted on tracking fissile

material it supplied to India. Also, Washington was frustrated by Indian legal liability provisions that have discouraged U.S. companies from capitalizing on new energy development in India because of concerns about their legal

responsibilities in the event of a nuclear power plant accident

On Sunday, Obama said he and Modi had reached a “breakthrough understanding” on those areas of disagreements. Details on an accord were sparse.

Ben Rhodes, Obama’s deputy national security adviser, said only that India “moved sufficiently on these issues to give us assurances that the issues are resolved.” U.S. Ambassador Richard Verma said the agreement would not re-

Japan working to gain IS hostage’s release, analyzing video

TOKYO (AP)—Japan was working Monday to coordinate efforts with Jordan and other countries to save a hostage held by the extremist Islamic State group.

“We all have one unchanged goal and we will absolutely not give up until the end. And with that faith, we will try our utmost to reach that goal. That’s how it is,” said Yasuhide Nakayama, a Japanese deputy foreign minister sent to Amman, Jordan, to work on the crisis.

Back in Tokyo, government spokesman Yoshihide Suga told reporters that the government was still analyzing a video posted online that pur-

ported to show one of the two hostages, Haruna Yukawa, had been killed.

The government has been in crisis mode since the Islamic State group said in an online video on Jan. 20 that it had two Japanese hostages and would kill them within 72 hours unless it paid \$200 million. That deadline passed Friday.

Asked if the government had concluded the latest video was authentic, Suga said, “We cannot deny that the likelihood is high.”

Attention was focused on trying to save Kenji Goto, a 47-year-old journalist who was shown in the video, holding the

photo of Yukawa. The still picture included a recording of a voice claiming to be Goto, saying his captors were no longer demanding ransom but wanted a prisoner exchange.

The Associated Press could not verify the contents of the video message, which differed from earlier videos released by the Islamic State group, which now holds a third of both Syria and Iraq.

Japanese were shocked by the video and news of the likely killing of Yukawa, a 42-year-old adventurer, who was captured in Syria last summer. Goto is thought to have been seized in late Octo-

ber after going there to try to rescue him.

But some are critical of the two men for taking such risks. Some Japanese also are criticizing Prime Minister Shinzo Abe for pursuing a more assertive foreign policy, saying it may have contributed to the crisis.

Toshiko Okada, 68, who used to run an English school in a Tokyo suburb, said she was stunned by the news and praying for the hostages’ lives.

“I feel Abe’s misguided shallow acts have triggered this ransom demand,” she said. “Maybe he should be attending to problems at home.”

Retrieval of more than 30 slain Filipino commandos underway

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police have recovered at least 21 bodies of the dozens of commandos who were mowed down by Muslim rebel gunfire in a far-flung southern village where they moved in over the weekend to hunt down one of southeast Asia’s most-wanted terrorists, officials said Monday.

Army-backed police and villagers also helped take 11 wounded members of the national police’s elite Special Action Forces away from the battle scene in and around the village of Tukanalipao in Mamasapano township, where the government suffered its biggest single-day combat loss in many years, officials said.

Mayor Tahirudin Benzar

Ampatuan told The Associated Press by telephone that village leaders saw the bodies of policemen in a clearing following Sunday’s fighting. Many of the dead were stripped to their underwear, with their assault firearms missing.

“What they described to me was gruesome,” Ampatuan said.

The commandos had sneaked into the Muslim rebel community in two groups, but apparently had “misencounter” with members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the main Muslim insurgent group, which signed a peace deal with the government in March and has had a relatively successful cease-fire agreement with government troops in recent years,

Ampatuan said.

Under the truce, government forces are required to coordinate anti-terror assaults and other law enforcement operations with the Moro rebels to prevent accidental fighting. But the approximately 100 police commandos did not notify the rebels before they arrived in the dark, Moro rebel leader Mohagher Iqbal said.

“If somebody barges into your house, what will you do?” Iqbal said by telephone.

He said the 11,000-strong Moro group would file a protest over the action of the police commandos, but added the incident was not likely to undermine the peace process, a view shared by Philippine officials.

“The peace process will not

be affected because we’re not dealing against the MILF here,” Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said, referring to the Liberation Front.

“We are up against the enemies of the state,” Gazmin said, referring to breakaway Muslim rebels, called the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, who also have a presence in Tukanalipao and reportedly helped subdue the outnumbered commandos.

Gazmin said the police were trying to arrest Zulkifli bin Hir, a Malaysian terror suspect, and a Filipino bomb-making expert, Abdul Basit Usman. U.S. and Philippine authorities have blamed them for several deadly bombings in the south.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Constitution move pushes Nepal deeper into political turmoil

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Nepal’s ruling coalition on Sunday took a step toward drafting a new constitution, angering the opposition and pushing the Himalayan country further into political turmoil. Opposition members in the Constituent Assembly protested noisily behind rows of security personnel in parliament as Speaker Subash Nemwang ignored them and announced a proposal committee would proceed with voting on the constitution. The committee is backed by the governing parties’ overwhelming majority, but the opposition parties are demanding the draft of the constitution be prepared by consensus.

Indonesian rescuers fail again to lift fuselage of AirAsia

PANGKALAN BUN, Indonesia (AP)—The second attempt to lift the fuselage of the crashed AirAsia jetliner failed Sunday as the wreckage sank back to the ocean floor when a rope linking the lifting balloons broke. Navy spokesman Manahan Simorangkir said strong current was the main obstacle. The rope had been fastened and linked to a ship, but broke again as the fuselage was lifted. “We could not fight against nature,” Simorangkir said. “We just hope the weather would change and be conducive.” The attempt on Saturday failed because lifting balloons deflated. Divers reached the fuselage for the first time on Friday. Most of the victims are believed to be inside.

World

Boko Haram attacks northeastern Nigerian city, scores killed

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP)—In fierce fighting Sunday that killed more than 200 combatants, Nigerian troops clashed with Islamic extremists who attacked Maiduguri, the biggest city in northeastern Nigeria, from three fronts.

At the same time the insurgents continued scorched-earth attacks on villages some 200 kilometers (125 miles) to the south in Adamawa state, slitting throats of residents, looting and burning homes and abducting dozens of trapped women and children, according to Vandu Kainu and other escaping survivors.

Adamawa state legislator Adamu Kamale appealed for troops to protect civilians in Michika, where six villages are under attack. “The attacks have continued since Friday with no presence of security operatives,” he complained.

The multiple attacks come as U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry visited Lagos, Nigeria’s commercial capital nearly 1,000 miles (more than 1,500 kilome-



A near deserted street is photographed as a curfew is placed on people after clashes between Nigerian troops and Islamic extremists, in the city of Maiduguri, Nigeria, Sunday, Jan. 25, 2015, AP

ters) southwest of Maiduguri, to encourage peaceful elections on Feb. 14 in Africa’s most populous country.

“This will be the largest democratic election on the continent,” Kerry said. “Given

the stakes, it’s absolutely critical that these elections be conducted peacefully—that they are credible, transparent and accountable.”

Kerry met with President Goodluck Jonathan and his chief

rival candidate, former military dictator Muhammadu Buhari. Kerry told reporters afterward that he won pledges from both to refrain from violence.

He also issued a warning:

Anyone responsible for inciting post-election mayhem will be barred entry to the United States, where millions of Nigerians live.

Kerry promised more U.S. support in the fight against Boko Haram if the elections take place peacefully and democratically.

More than 800 people were killed in northern protests after Buhari, a Muslim northerner, lost 2011 elections to Jonathan, a Christian from the south.

Boko Haram has denounced democracy and wants to make an Islamic state of Nigeria, whose population of about 170 million is divided almost equally between Muslims in the north and Christians in the south.

In Maiduguri, troops blocked roads into the city, which also prevented civilians from escaping.

Defense Ministry spokesman Brig. Gen. Chris Olukolade said Sunday evening that troops successfully repelled attacks on Maiduguri and Konduga, 40 kilometers (25

miles) to the southeast.

But he said they were mounting air raids in Monduno, a town 140 kilometers (88 miles) northeast of Maiduguri, which Boko Haram seized Sunday morning.

More than 200 combatants died Sunday, mainly insurgents, according to soldiers and civilian self-defense fighters who counted bodies. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not allowed to speak to reporters.

President Jonathan made a surprise visit to Maiduguri 10 days ago and pledged to crush the insurgents. But his repeated promises are ringing hollow as Boko Haram since August has seized and kept control of large swaths of the northeast, including key border crossings into Cameroon, Chad and Niger.

With encouragement from the United Nations, Nigeria and its neighbors are setting up a multinational force to fight the extremists who recently have increased cross-border raids into Cameroon.

WHO adopts reforms to repair reputation after bungling Ebola

GENEVA (AP)—The World Health Organization has proposed reforms that could overhaul its structure after botching the response to the biggest-ever Ebola outbreak, a sluggish performance that experts say cost thousands of lives.

On Sunday, several dozen of WHO’s member countries approved a resolution aimed at strengthening the U.N. health agency’s ability to respond to emergencies, though many of the details have yet to be worked out and it’s unclear what concrete changes will result.

“The WHO we have is not the WHO we need,” said Dr. Tom Frieden, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He said

decisions at WHO were often made for political rather than scientific reasons.

WHO’s chief, Dr. Margaret Chan, acknowledged Sunday that WHO was too slow to grasp the significance of the Ebola outbreak, which is estimated to have killed more than 8,600 people, mainly in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Critics say the kinds of reform being adopted are long overdue.

“The groundswell of dissatisfaction and lack of trust in WHO over Ebola has reached such a crescendo that (without) fundamental reform, I think we might lose confidence in WHO for a generation,” said Lawrence Gostin, director of the WHO Collaborating Center on Public

Health Law and Human Rights at Georgetown University.

“Ebola revealed all of WHO’s inherent weaknesses and the international community saw painfully what it was like to see WHO not being able to lead. That resulted in thousands of deaths that were completely avoidable,” he said.

In a resolution adopted by WHO’s executive board, nearly 60 countries called on the agency to take “immediately necessary steps” to enact measures including the creation of an emergency fund to respond to health crises. Britain’s Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Sally Davies, announced the U.K. would donate \$10 million to the proposed fund.

Cuba digs in heels on concessions as part of better US ties

HAVANA (AP)—The start of talks on repairing 50 years of broken relations appears to have left President Raul Castro’s government focused on winning additional concessions without giving in to U.S. demands for greater freedoms, despite the seeming benefits that warmer ties could have for the country’s struggling economy.

Following the highest-level open talks in three decades between the two nations, Cuban officials remained firm in rejecting significant reforms pushed by the United States as part of President Barack Obama’s surprise move to re-establish ties and rebuild economic relations with the Communist-led country.

“One can’t think that in order to improve and normalize rela-

tions with the U.S., Cuba has to give up the principles it believes in,” Cuba’s top diplomat for U.S. affairs, Josefina Vidal, told The Associated Press after the end of the talks. “Changes in Cuba aren’t negotiable.”

It’s not clear if Cuba’s tough stance is part of normal negotiation tactics or a hardened position that could prevent the talks from moving forward.

The Obama administration has dedicated significant political capital to rapprochement, but closer ties with the economic giant to the north also could have major importance for Cuba, which saw growth slow sharply in 2014 and is watching with concern as falling oil prices slam Venezuela, which has been a vital source of economic support.

In a wide-ranging interview, Vidal said that before deciding whether to allow greater economic ties with the U.S., Cuba was seeking more answers about Obama’s dramatic of loosening the half-century trade embargo.

Measures put into effect this month range from permitting large-scale sales of telecommunications equipment to allowing U.S. banks to open accounts in Cuba, but Vidal said officials on the island want to know if Cuba can buy such gear on credit and whether it is now free to use dollars for transactions around the world, not just those newly permitted with U.S. institutions. Until now, at least, U.S. law and policy has banned most foreign dealings with Cuba.

Ukraine: Phone calls prove rebels attacked city, killed 30

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukraine’s president said Sunday that intercepted radio and telephone conversations prove that Russia-backed separatists were responsible for firing the rockets that pounded the southeastern city of Mariupol and killed at least 30 people.

The attack on Mariupol, a strategically situated port city that had been relatively quiet for months, alarmed the West and looked likely further to aggravate relations with Russia.

Putting the blame squarely on Moscow, President Barack Obama said the U.S. would work with its European partners to “ratchet up the pressure on Russia.”

European Union foreign affairs chief Federica Mogherini later announced that EU foreign ministers would hold an “ex-

traordinary” meeting in Brussels on Thursday to discuss Ukraine. Diplomats said the U.N. Security Council would meet Monday afternoon on Ukraine.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, speaking separately with Mogherini and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, told them the Ukrainian government bore responsibility for the latest military escalation, according to statements released by his ministry. Lavrov did not, however, directly address who had carried out the attack on Mariupol and said that it should be investigated.

Separatist leader Alexander Zakharchenko initially announced that his forces had begun an offensive on the government-controlled city of Mariupol. But after the extent of civilian casualties became

known, he backtracked and blamed Ukrainian forces for Saturday’s carnage.

The rocket attack came a day after the rebels rejected a peace deal and announced they were going on a multi-pronged offensive against the Kiev government in Kiev in a bid to seize more territory. The rebel stance has upended European attempts to mediate an end to the fighting in eastern Ukraine that has cost at least 5,100 lives since April, according to United Nations estimates.

“The intercepted radio and telephone conversations, which were given to me by Ukraine’s security services, irrefutably prove that the attack was conducted by the terrorists, who, unfortunately, are supported by Russia,” President Petro Poroshenko said during an emergency meeting of his Security Council.

Ebola report

NUMBER OF EBOLA CASES AND DEATHS as of Jan. 14

Country		Probable/suspected	Confirmed	Total of confirmed and probable/suspected
Guinea	Cases	292	2,514	1,814 deaths
	Deaths	284	1,530	2,806 cases
Liberia	Cases	3,127	5,204	3,538 deaths
	Deaths	*	*	8,331 cases
Sierra Leone	Cases	2,338	7,786	2,977 deaths
	Deaths	366	2,611	10,124 cases
Mali	Cases	1	7	6 deaths
	Deaths	1	5	8 cases
U.S.	Cases	0	4	1 death
	Deaths	0	1	4 cases
U.K.	Cases	0	1	
	Deaths	0	0	1 case

* Exact data not available at this time

Total cases since start of outbreak: 21,296** Total deaths since start of outbreak: 8,429**

** Total includes cases and deaths in countries that have since been cleared of Ebola. (Nigeria, Senegal, Spain)

Focus

BEIJING—Nearly every week, reports surface of Muslim Uighurs trying to flee China. They've been found in refugee camps in Thailand and caught with fake passports trying to board planes. This week, Chinese police gunned down two Uighurs after they reportedly tried to cross China's southern border into Vietnam.

The exodus has strained China's relations with other countries, especially with Turkey, which has a historic bond with Uighurs, a Turkic-speaking ethnic group.

According to human rights groups and other analysts, Uighurs are trying to avoid persecution and bloodshed in Xinjiang province, the area in far-western China that Uighurs have long called their homeland. Uighur emigration has tended to spike after bouts of violence in Xinjiang, and over the last three years, riots and clashes with Chinese police have become commonplace.

Beijing has a different story. The official Chinese line is that a large number of these would-be exiles are terrorists, bent on waging holy war abroad and bringing it back to China. And Beijing seems to be growing increasingly impatient with anyone who suggests otherwise.

"Contrary to our Western colleagues' portrayal, they (Uighur emigrants) are not innocent, helpless members of an ethnic minority fleeing 'suppression' at home in pursuit of 'freedom,'" the government-controlled China Daily wrote in an editorial Tuesday.

"They are religious extremists headed to the forefronts of Islamic jihad, and devotees of the Islamic State group."

There's no doubt that, for decades, Muslim Uighurs have left China to join wars and jihads abroad. Starting in the mid-1980s, Uighur militants trained with Afghan mujahedeen in their U.S.-supported battle against the Soviet Union. After the 9/11 attacks, U.S. and Pakistani forces captured Uighurs thought to be working with al-Qaida and sent 22 of them to the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay. Eventually, they were cleared of wrongdoing and released to other countries.

Until 9/11, it was fairly easy for Uighurs to escape China by slipping into Kazakhstan and the other "stans" that border Xinjiang. But over the last 13 years, China has worked with neighboring countries to make those borders less porous. It also has made it more difficult for Uighurs to obtain passports.

As a result, discontented Uighurs are finding other routes out of China, especially by crossing into Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar, according to Jacob Zenn, a security analyst with the Jamestown Foundation, a Washington-based research center. Once in Thailand, they can easily obtain fake passports to travel on to Turkey or other countries.

In March last year, Thai author-



Chen Weiming is pictured with members of the Free Syria Army in 2012 in Syria, location unknown. Chen is a Chinese-born artist and naturalized New Zealand citizen who says he has made three trips to Syria since 2011 to fight with and help the FSA topple the Syrian government.

China says Muslim Uighurs are fleeing to join jihadi

By **STUART LEAVENWORTH**
MCCLATCHY FOREIGN STAFF

ities detained two separate groups of people thought to be Uighurs who'd crossed into Thailand without proper documentation. One group of 112 was found in Sa Kaew province near the Thai-Cambodia border. Another group, of 220 people, was found in a jungle camp in southern Thailand's Songkhla province.

While China has labeled escaping Uighurs as potential terrorists, many of those held in Thailand are women and children, as televised footage from the country shows. Police found the Songkhla group hungry and mosquito-bitten, with some carrying Chinese bus tickets and their life's possessions.

"There is no indication whatsoever that the group being held in detention in Thailand are 'terrorists,'" Phil Robertson, Asia division deputy director for Human Rights Watch, said in an email. He said Chinese authorities have made no apparent attempt to single out those detained for "special action," as would occur if any of them were suspected militants.

China's concerns about its southern borders have increased since a mob of Uighurs attacked a train station in south China on March 1. Wielding swords and knives, the mob carried out a bloody attack against passengers and police in a train station in Kunming, north of the Vietnam border. Chinese officials say the rampage stemmed from angry "Xinjiang terrorists" stopped from sneaking across the border, a claim that has yet to be independently verified.



Uighur men sell sheep and other animals in a livestock market in Yaqan, southeast of Kashgar, in Xinjiang, China on Sept. 2, 2014.

Since then, China has set up a special task force to intercept smugglers and people trying to cross borders illegally. Some 352 smugglers and 852 "stowaways" have been arrested over the last eight months, the Ministry of Public Security said Sunday.

Last week, Chinese authorities also announced they had arrested 10 Turkish citizens in Shanghai for their role in attempting to smuggle Uighur "terrorists" out of the country. According to Global Times, a Chinese government publication, police captured the suspects in November when nine Uighurs attempted to flee the country with altered Turkish passports, with the help of two Chinese nationals, who were also arrested.

The arrests have further complicated an already tense

relationship between China and Turkey. Turkey is home to thousands of Uighur exiles. Many Turks feel a kinship with Uighurs, seeing them as the descendants of nomadic Turks who settled in Xinjiang—which Uighurs call East Turkestan—centuries ago.

Yet Turkey has a \$24 billion bilateral trade relationship with China. Many Turks don't want to jeopardize it. Chinese officials already have issued harsh statements against Turkey for offering refuge to Uighur refugees found in Thailand. Beijing wants them deported to China, where rights groups fear that they could be imprisoned or tortured.

"Turkey is stuck in a dilemma," said Metin Gurcan, a Ankara-based security specialist and former Turkish military adviser. The

government, he said, is trying to keep the Uighur issue "low profile" so as not to antagonize either Uighur exiles or China.

One source of friction—Turkish smuggling networks that reportedly transport Uighurs and other Muslims through Turkey to the battlefield in Syria and Iraq. In Tuesday's editorial, China Daily accused Turkey of "shilly-shallying" in stopping these networks and cracking down on Uighur militant groups. These groups are known by various names, including the Turkistan Islamic Party and East Turkestan Islamic Movement.

Analysts are divided on the degree that Uighurs have joined the Islamic State. In July, China's Middle East envoy, Ambassador Wu Sike, estimated there are at least 100 Chinese citizens fighting for the Islamic State, but the actual number may be higher. On Wednesday, Malaysia's home minister, Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, told the Bernama news agency that more than 300 Chinese nationals have used Malaysia as a transit point to join the Islamic State. Ahmad Zahid said he learned those figures from China's vice minister of public security during a meeting Wednesday.

Pantucci says it isn't surprising that the Islamic State has attracted disaffected Muslims from China, which has more than 10 million Uighurs and roughly 15 million Hui Muslims. "They are drawing in radicals from everywhere," he said.

Even some non-Uighur Chinese have joined the fight in

Syria. The most prominent is a Han Chinese named Wang Bo. He reportedly traveled from Libya to Syria to join a battalion that later became part of the Islamic State. He appeared in a 2013 video vowing to attack the "Chinese economy" in revenge for China's support of Syrian President Bashar Assad. His whereabouts now are uncertain.

Another foreign fighter is Chen Weiming, a Chinese-born artist and naturalized New Zealand citizen who has also appeared in several videos from Syria.

In a telephone interview from his home in New Zealand, Chen told McClatchy he has made three visits to Syria since 2011 to fight with and help the Free Syrian Army, a group that has received limited U.S. support in its battle to oust the Syrian president.

"I went there because I believe in freedom," said Chen, known for his "Goddess of Democracy" statue, a tribute to victims of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre. "I believe we should help people under dictatorship, whether they are in China or Syria."

During his time in Syria, Chen said he did not encounter any Uighur fighters, but he understands there are several there. He scoffed at Chinese claims that Uighur militants abroad are exporting terrorism back to China.

"In Xinjiang, the people labeled terrorists are using knives and then getting shot by police," he said. "Real terrorists use much different weapons."

While that may be so, other observers say it is just a matter of time before Uighur militants abroad become as radicalized—and well-armed—as their counterparts elsewhere.

In a post this week in Al-Monitor, Gurcan noted a shift in traditional Uighur interpretations of the Quran.

Whereas Uighurs once adhered to the "the school of Imam Maturidi"—a highly moderate school of Islamic thought—they are moving toward more radical ideas, wrote Gurcan, citing the research of another Turkish analyst, Hussein Rasit Yilmaz.

In Xinjiang, Chinese authorities almost every month announce a new regulation aimed at preventing radicalization. Men can't grow long beards. Women are discouraged from wearing veils. For several years, young Uighurs have been unable to enter mosques.

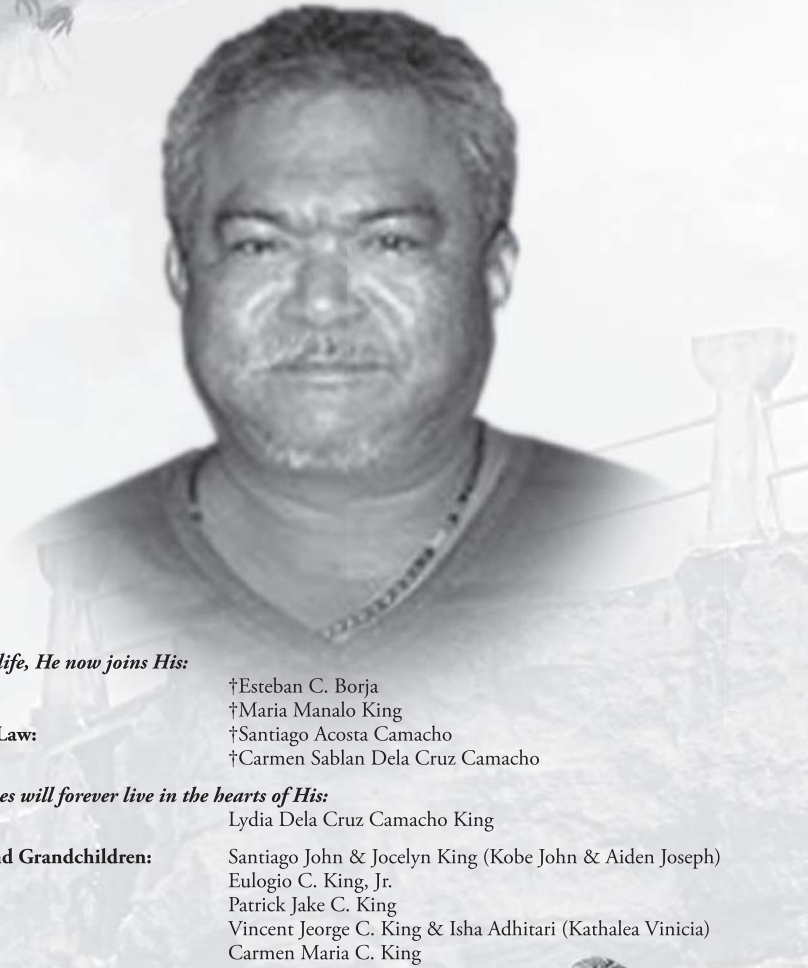
On Friday, a story in China Daily announced that China was strengthening its military presence in Xinjiang to prevent terrorist attacks and better enforce border controls.

"The Chinese are taking this seriously, as they should," said Pantucci. On the other hand, he noted, "If you overreact to a terrorist incident, you could play into their hands and create a bigger problem."

McClatchy special correspondent Tiantian Zhang contributed to this report.

In Celebration of his new life †Eulogio Manalo King “Eloy”

Born to life on January 23, 1963 and was called
to Eternal rest on January 14, 2015



In His new life, He now joins His:

Father: †Esteban C. Borja
Mother: †Maria Manalo King
Parents-In-Law: †Santiago Acosta Camacho
†Carmen Sablan Dela Cruz Camacho

His memories will forever live in the hearts of His:

Wife: Lydia Dela Cruz Camacho King
Children and Grandchildren: Santiago John & Jocelyn King (Kobe John & Aiden Joseph)
Eulogio C. King, Jr.
Patrick Jake C. King
Vincent George C. King & Isha Adhitari (Kathalea Vinicia)
Carmen Maria C. King

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws of †Eloy:

†Oscar M. King - family
Rita K. & †Paulino SN. Manglona and family
Steven M. & †Emiliana SN. King and family
Juanis M. & †Ermelunda B. King and family
Vicente M. & Martina E. King and family
Cristina K. & Jeus T. Cabrera and family
Magdalena K. & Romulo B. Misola and family
Rosalie K. & Louisito D. Bautista and family
Alexandro M. & Lilia M. King and family
Thomas M. & Karen King and family
Juan M. King and children
†Rudolfo M. King & Angie C. Atalig and family

†Alicia & Miguel Evangelista and family

Dolores Chargualaf and family
Victor & Eloise Borja and family
Esteban & Corazon Borja and children
Arsene & Diana Borja and family
Raymond & Bertha Borja and family
Gilbert & Chona Borja and family
†Clarence Borja
Jasper Borja & Lisa Aguon and family
Clarence & Brooklyn Borja and family
Lisa Borja & Godfrey Mendiola and family

Brothers-In-Law and Sisters-In-Law of †Eloy:

Gabriel DLC. & Frances T. Camacho and family
†Joseph DLC. & Martha C. Camacho and family
Francisco DLC. Camacho & Mazie SN. Taitano and family
Patricia C. & Jose P. Villagomez and family
Edward DLC. & Elizabeth G. Camacho and family
Martin DLC. & Raynita L. Camacho and family
Ricardo DLC. & Cynthia R. Camacho and family
Ruth C. & Steven M. Pangelinan and family
Gernadine DLC. Camacho & Norbert O. Mettao



St. Peregrine, Patron of
Cancer Patients – Pray For Us

Mass of Intentions are being celebrated daily at 6:00am at Kristo Rai Church and Mount Carmel Cathedral and also at San Jose Church in Tinian at 6:00am. Holy Rosary is being prayed nightly at 7:00pm at San Jose Church, Tinian.

Family viewing will be on Wednesday, January 28, 2015 from 4pm to 6pm at the Nuestra Señora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel. His remains will be taken to Tinian on Thursday, January 29, 2015.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2015. His remains will be escorted from Tinian Health Center to San Jose Church, Tinian at 7:30am. Responso Service will be at 8:00am followed by Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am and Interment Service will be at 12:00nn at Tinian Cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers,
Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Lydia Camacho King, Children and Families

Overdrive

MTV: Millennials want their cars

SAN FRANCISCO (Detroit Free Press)—Millennials are more interested in driving and buying cars than much research has led automakers to believe, according to a new study MTV released today at the annual convention of the National Automobile Dealers Association.

The survey of 3,600 people between the ages of 18 and 34 found that 75 percent would rather give up social media for a day than their car and 72 percent said they would rather give up texting for a week than their car.

But automakers, dealers and advertisers need to craft messages that speak to their transportation needs and respect their easy access to comparative pricing information.

“This is the first generation in history that can literally kill a brand with the push of a button,” said Berj Kazanjian,

MTV senior vice president for ad sales research.

The survey was conducted last spring and included responses from 3,600 millennials, about 400 Generation Xers and 400 baby boomers.

“This generation is almost 100 million strong,” Kazanjian said. “They have close to a trillion dollars in buying power. It’s not something to sneeze at. They’re significantly more of them than Gen Xers.”

The findings contrast with other recent studies. Last October the U.S. Public Interest Research Group released a study showing, among other findings, that the generation born after 1980 is less focused that older Americans on owning cars and trucks.

PIRG found that between 2001 and 2009, the average number of miles driven by 16 to 34 year-olds declined by 23

percent. Census data show that the share of 16 to 24-year-olds driving to work dropped 1.5 percentage points from 2006 to 2013, while the percentage commuting to work by public transportation, walking or bicycling increased.

A 2013 study by the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute reported that adults between 55 and 64 were 15 times more likely than those between the ages of 18 and 24 to buy a new vehicle.

In a separate study UMTRI found that the percentage of 19-year-olds with a driver’s license had fallen to 75 percent in 2008 from 87 percent in 1983.

Focusing on those 24 and younger understates the full impact of the generation MTV studied. The oldest of millennials are now in their early 30s and Kazanjian said that as the economy improves they are earning more money than they did in the wake of the Great Recession.

Toyota edges Volkswagen, GM as world's top auto seller in 2014

Toyota Motor Corp. narrowly edged out Volkswagen AG to capture the global auto sales crown for the third consecutive year in 2014.

General Motors Co. was third.

Toyota sold 10.23 million vehicles last year, including those

from its subsidiaries Daihatsu Motor Co. and Hino Motors. That was up 3 percent from 2013.

Volkswagen sold 10.14 million vehicles in 2014, a 4 percent gain from the previous year, while GM’s global sales rose 2 percent to 9.92 million vehicles.

Toyota believes its sales will

slide 1 percent this year because of declining sales in its Japanese home market. It expects its sales in Japan to fall 9 percent this year to 2.1 million vehicles.

That could give VW, which is not dependent on sales in Japan, the opening to capture the top ranking. *(Los Angeles Times)*

MOTORING Q&A

Engine warmup, even in low temperatures, not necessary

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: I have a 2001 PT Cruiser with 100,000 miles on it. Would you recommend a spark plug change? Also, I keep hearing that it's not good to warm up your car nowadays. Hey, when it's 20-below I really don't care if it wastes a cup of gas! They say that the oil is much better these days, but is it really OK to jump in your car when it's very cold and take right off?

A: As I mentioned in my last column, there's no harm in allowing your vehicle to warm up a few minutes in extremely cold weather. Besides generating some temperature in the vehicle's fluids and warming the interior a bit, it gives you time to make sure the windshield, side and rear windows are clear of snow and ice before you drive.

Is it harmful to drive the vehicle as soon as it is started in cold weather? No. As you said, today's motor oils are far superior to oils of just a decade earlier. In addition, manufacturing materials and tolerances are far better and more precise. Add the engine management system's capabilities to fine-tune fuel/air mixture and ignition timing as well as limit engine output during the warmup period, and that means the most efficient and least stressful

warmup method in all but extreme cold is to start the engine, let the idle stabilize and drop to normal, engage the automatic transmission, let it idle in gear for a moment or two, then drive the vehicle gently as it gets up to temperature.

My ALLDATA database says Chrysler recommends fresh spark plugs in this engine every 30,000 miles. After this many miles, take care in removing the old plugs to avoid stripping the threads in the cylinder head. Install new plugs with anti-seize on the threads.

Q: Typically I change my own oil. Our newest vehicle has 23,000 miles on it and calls for OW-20 synthetic oil. It's actually less expensive to let the dealer do it than to buy the oil and filter and do it myself. However, on the last two oil changes I've noticed that they seem to overfill it by 1/2 to 3/4 of a quart. What potential harm can come from overfilling?

A: Slightly overfilling the crankcase with oil, as you've described, usually isn't an issue. If the oil level is high enough to cause a problem, the excess oil is usually blown out of the engine through the PCV system, engine seals and gaskets as it seeks its normal oil level.

If the engine is grossly overfilled and the crankshaft whips

the oil into a froth as it spins, the aerated oil can cause a loss of oil pressure and lubrication to engine bearings, potentially causing damage.

How can you tell if the engine is grossly overfilled? Fully warm up the engine while monitoring the oil pressure gauge or warning light. Shut the engine off and quickly pull the dipstick to check the oil for evidence of frothing.

Q: I have a 2001 Toyota RAV4 with 68,248 miles. It has started to give out a puff of exhaust smoke when started in the morning. Oil and coolant levels show full and haven't changed. There is no smoke while driving. What could the problem be or is there even a problem?

A: I don't think there is a problem. A slight puff of bluish smoke on starting a 70,000 mile engine is not uncommon, nor is it harmful. The typical cause is oil that has collected on the valve stems slowly seeping past the valve seals and guides as the car sits overnight. When the engine is first started, this oil is drawn into the combustion chamber with the incoming air/fuel mixture and burned. Having owned and driven high-mileage vehicles for decades, I see this as upper-cylinder lubrication at startup rather than a problem.

Life & Style

Miss Colombia crowned Miss Universe in Miami

MIAMI (AP)—Miss Colombia Paulina Vega has been crowned Miss Universe, beating out first runner-up Miss USA Nia Sanchez and contestants from more than 80 other countries at Sunday's pageant in Miami.

Vega, a 22-year-old student of business administration from Barranquilla, Colombia, said the contests leading up to Miss Universe were the first she had participated in. She also said they would be her last as she would be eager to return to her studies in Colombia after her reign.

"It will be a dream come true to represent the woman of today. A woman that not only cares about being beautiful and being glamorous, but also cares about being a professional, intelligent, hard-working person," Vega had said earlier in the week in talking about the role of the winner.

Following Sanchez, the 24-year-old Miss USA from Las Vegas, Nevada, the second runner-up was Miss Ukraine Diana Harkusha.

Miss Jamaica Kaci Fennell and Miss Netherlands Yasmin Verheijen were also among the top five, emerging from the field of 88 contestants.

Sanchez, a 24-year-old resident of Las Vegas, Nevada, had spoken earlier of looking forward to the often-dreaded interview portion. She had been running practice questions all week with her roommate Miss Australia Tegan Martin, who made it to the top ten.

Sanchez has a fourth-degree

'American Sniper' holds top spot at weekend box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"American Sniper" hit the mark with moviegoers again.

The military drama starring Bradley Cooper as Navy SEAL marksman Chris Kyle topped the box office for a second weekend in a row with \$64.4 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"American Sniper" is up for six Academy Awards, including best picture and best actor for Cooper. The total haul for the Warner Bros. film now stands at \$200.1 million. "American Sniper" also earned an additional \$17.6 million in 16 international territories, including Australia, Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

In a distant second place, the saucy Universal thriller "The Boy Next Door" featuring Jennifer Lopez as a teacher who engages in an affair with a younger man played by Ryan Guzman, debuted with \$15 million.

The animated fantasy "Strange Magic" from Lucasfilm and Disney flopped in seventh place with \$5.5 million.

Lionsgate's Johnny Depp dud "Mortdecai" tanked in ninth place with \$4.1 million.



Reigning Miss Universe Gabriela Isler, right, crowns the new Miss Universe, Paulina Vega of Colombia, left, during the Miss Universe pageant in Miami, Sunday, Jan. 25, 2015.

black belt in Tae Kwon Do and has traveled the country teaching others. She spoke previously about equipping women to defend themselves against crime.

"It's just something that's so prevalent in our society and why not empower women to take control of a dangerous situation into their own hand," she said.

"Today Show" personality Natalie Morales served as host of the show. Miss Colombia was crowned by the outgoing

Miss Universe, Gabriela Isler of Venezuela. The broadcast included performances by singers Nick Jonas and Prince Royce.

Crowd favorite Miss Venezuela Migbelis Lynette Castellanos was cut after the top ten. She had tremendous support and pressure locally and back home. The Miami suburb of Doral, which was host to the women during their stay, is also known as "Doralzuela" for its many Venezuelan residents.

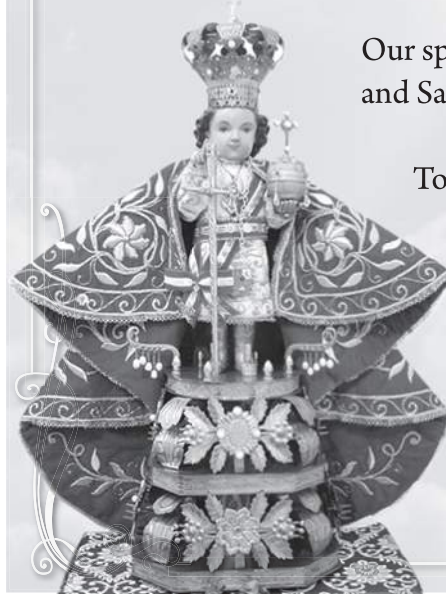
Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the late
**†Fortunato
 Ramos Mendez**
Lovingly known as "Tony"

wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to all our relatives, friends and neighbors for their kind expression of love, sympathy, personal assistance and support during this difficult time of sorrow in the passing of our beloved in the caring hands of our Creator.



Our special thanks to Fr. Ray, Fr. Jayson and Santo Niño Group.



To all who have helped us in one way or another, your presence, compassion and generosity will always be remembered.

To God be the glory.

Minda & Mendez Family

Forever In Our Heart †Samantha Lani Borja Robert Lovingly known as "Sammi"

Born on January 27, 1994 and went to be with her creator on January 21, 2015.

Predeceased by:

Maternal Grandfather: †Serafin C. Robert
 Paternal Grandmother: †Nadalia D. Smith
 Uncle: †Jerome M. Borja

†Sammi will forever be in the hearts of her:

Mother: Lorenza C. Smith
 Father: Nixon H. Smith
 Sisters: Nikita Robert, Nathalee C. Smith, and Ellen C. Smith

Maternal Aunts & Uncles:

Maria B. / Donald Pangelinan and children
 Anthony Robert / Daveyann Manglona and children
 Martina Castro and children
 Fernando Robert / Maria Cruz and children
 Lorenzo Robert / Marian Lizama and children
 Francisco Robert / Lorna Tenorio and children
 Nicole Robert and children

Brothers: Nixon C. Smith Jr., Kingston C. Smith

Special Friend:

Rosannie S. Germinaro

Partner:

Jason P. Limes

Great-Grandmother:

Natividad Borja

Maternal Grandmother:

Patricia B. Robert

Paternal Grandfather:

Hadley Smith

Godparents:

Clarissa B. Muna, Lorensen Sokau, and Maria Pangelinan

Paternal Aunts & Uncles:

Analeen Smith and children
 Hufert / Jesusa Smith and children
 Albert / Rosemary Smith and children
 Jackie S. / Jingle Hemon and children
 Anselynn Smith and children

Our dearest †Sammi will also be missed by numerous Aunts, Uncles, Cousins and Friends.

Daily Mass is being offered at San Roque Church on Tuesday & Thursday at 6:00PM and on Sunday at 9:30AM and at Santa Remedios Church on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday at 6:00PM.

The remains of our dearest Sammi will depart the CHCC morgue on Thursday, January 29, 2015 at 8:00AM and will be escorted to San Roque Church for Rosary and viewing. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00AM followed immediately by Interment Services at the San Roque Cemetery where she will be peacefully at rest.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Nixon & Lorenza Smith and Children



SAG Awards win sends 'Birdman' Oscar hopes soaring

By JAKE COYLE
AP FILM WRITER

Oscar hopes for "Birdman" got an enormous updraft over the weekend with big wins from the acting and producing guilds, possibly sending the comedy soaring over the perceived Academy Awards front-runner "Boyhood."

Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's elegantly crafted backstage romp won best ensemble Sunday night at the 21st annual Screen Actors Guild Awards, a day after it also won the top honor at the Producer Guild Awards. Both guilds are seen as highly predictive of which film will triumph at the Oscars, which will be held Feb. 22.

Richard Linklater's "Boyhood," the acclaimed indie made with the unprecedented real-life time-elapse of 12 years, has long held as the awards seasons favorite. But "Birdman" fills the role of a classic Oscar winner, like "Shakespeare in Love," as a celebration of showbiz. Its fortunes look especially bright considering the last seven Producers Guild Awards winners have also won best picture at the Academy Awards.

"Actors love this movie for showing the courage actors have to kind of go out there and lay it on the line," "Birdman" star Michael Keaton said backstage at the SAG Awards. He accepted the best ensemble award with his co-stars including Emma Stone, Edward Norton and Zach Galifianakis.

Yet Keaton also lost at the SAGs, held Sunday at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. Instead, most outstanding actor went to "The Theory of Everything" star Eddie Redmayne, whose exceeding technical performance as Stephen Hawking has equally drawn raves. Looking down at his blue statuette—"this very wonderful skinny man," he said—Redmayne dedicated the SAG Award to sufferers and victims of ALS.

The other Oscar favorites—Julianne Moore, Patricia Arquette



Michael Keaton, center, accepts the award for outstanding performance by a cast in a motion picture for "Birdman" at the 21st annual Screen Actors Guild Awards at the Shrine Auditorium on Sunday, Jan. 25, 2015, in Los Angeles.

WINNERS' LIST

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A complete list of winners at Sunday's 21st annual Screen Actors Guild Awards:

MOVIES:

Actor: Eddie Redmayne, "The Theory of Everything"

Actress: Julianne Moore, "Still Alice"

Supporting actor: J.K. Simmons, "Whiplash"

Supporting actress: Patricia Arquette, "Boyhood"

Cast: "Birdman"

Stunt ensemble: "Unbroken"

TELEVISION:

Actor in a comedy series: William H. Macy, "Shameless"

Actress in a comedy series: Uzo Aduba, "Orange Is the New Black"

Comedy series cast: "Orange Is the New Black"

Actor in a movie or miniseries: Mark Ruffalo, "The Normal Heart"

Actress in a movie or miniseries: Frances McDormand, "Olive Kitteridge"

Drama series cast: "Downton Abbey"

Actor in a drama series: Kevin Spacey, "House of Cards"

Actress in a drama series: Viola Davis, "How to Get Away With Murder"

Stunt ensemble: "Game of Thrones"

and J.K. Simmons—all cemented their front-runner status in a glamorous, self-congratulatory ceremony that can serve as a test-run for acceptance speeches.

Moore, widely considered the best-actress favorite, won most outstanding actress for "Still Alice," in which she plays an academic with early onset Al-

zheimer's Disease. Accepting the award, she recalled an early lesson on the soap opera "As the World Turns," in which she played twin sisters, good and evil.

"Then I realized it was super boring to act by myself," said Moore.

Accepting the award for most outstanding supporting actor for his performance as a domineering jazz teacher in "Whiplash," Simmons thanked all 49 actors who appear in the drama.

"All of us actors are supporting actors," said Simmons, a veteran character actor. "Each of us is essential, completely crucial to the story because if there's one false moment, the train comes off the rails."

"Boyhood" star Arquette added the latest in a nearly uninterrupted string of supporting actress awards. "This little movie is about human beings and it's about bringing real life onto the screen," she said backstage.

Because actors make up the largest portion of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and

Sciences, the SAG Awards are considered one of the most telling Oscar previews. Individual acting winners usually mirror each other exactly, or very nearly. Last year, the top four winners—Matthew McConaughey, Cate Blanchett, Lupita Nyong'o, Jared Leto—all went on to win Academy Awards after first scooping up SAG awards.

The predictive powers of the SAGs have been more checkered in matching its top award with eventual best-picture Oscar winners. In the last six years, SAG best-ensemble and Academy Award best-picture winners have lined up three times ("Argo," "The King's Speech" and "Slumdog Millionaire"), while diverging just as often. Last year, the actors chose "American Hustle" over eventual Oscar winner "12 Years a Slave"; in 2011, they picked "The Help" over "The Artist"; and in 2009, "Inglourious Basterds" defeated "The Hurt Locker."

So Sunday's SAG Awards made two things clear: the Os-

car race will be a nail-biter that likely pits "Birdman" against "Boyhood"; and the other best source of drama will probably be Keaton and Redmayne vying for best actor.

Sunday's show kicked things off with a pair of wins for the Netflix prison series "Orange Is the New Black," honoring it as best ensemble in a comedy and naming Uzo Aduba most outstanding actress in a comedy series. Aduba won over a number of veteran stars, including Julia Louis-Dreyfus ("Veep") and Edie Falco ("Nurse Jackie").

Best ensemble cast in a drama series went to "Downton Abbey," the second time the series has won the category.

Two actors who usually reside on the big screen won the SAG awards for performances in a miniseries or TV movie: Mark Ruffalo (for HBO's "A Normal Heart") and Frances McDormand (for HBO's "Olive Kitteridge"). Kevin Spacey ("House of Cards"), William H. Macy ("Shameless") and Viola Davis ("How to Get Away With Murder") also collected awards.

Davis thanked the producers of the legal dram "for thinking that a sexualized, messy, mysterious woman could be a 49-year-old, dark-skinned African American woman who looks me."

Debbie Reynolds, the "Singin' in the Rain" star, was honored with the SAG lifetime achievement award, which her daughter, Carrie Fisher, presented. The 82-year-old Reynolds embarrassed Fisher with a story, recalling that her bun in the famous musical led her to warn her daughter ahead of playing Princess Leia in "Star Wars."

"I said, 'Well, Carrie, be careful of any weird hairdos,'" said Reynolds. "So luckily George gave her two buns."

She also remembered one of her favorite films, 1964's "The Unsinkable Molly Brown."

"In that movie I got to sing a wonderful song 'I Ain't Down Yet,'" said Reynolds. "Well, I ain't."

Debbie Reynolds honored for lifetime achievement

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Debbie Reynolds accepted the Screen Actors Guild's lifetime achievement award from her daughter Sunday night, and promptly embarrassed Carrie Fisher with a story.

The 82-year-old entertainer recalled having "a big, ugly bun" in her best-known movie, "Singin' in the Rain."

"I warned my daughter Carrie, be careful of any weird hairdo," Reynolds said she advised Fisher before playing Princess Leia in George Lucas' "Star Wars."

"Luckily, George gave her two buns."

Reynolds initially told the audience at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles that her favorite

movie was "Singin' in the Rain," her first major co-starring role in 1952 with Gene Kelly.

But later she also called "The Unsinkable Molly Brown" her favorite. She received her only Oscar nomination for the 1964 film.

"I got to sing a song called 'I Ain't Down Yet,'" she said. "Well, I ain't."

The acerbic Fisher lovingly and bitingly celebrated her mother before turning over the mic.

"She has been more than a mother to me, not much, but definitely more," Fisher said, noting her mother's advice on interior decorating and her personal life.

Fisher narrated a video trib-

ute to Reynolds, who has been in show business for 66 years. Her career began when she was signed by Warner Bros. after being crowned Miss Burbank at 16.

"Admittedly, I found it difficult to share my mother with her adoring fans who treated her like a member of their family," Fisher said.

Reynolds did not appear backstage to speak with reporters.

Her most recent role came two years ago when she played Liberace's mother in HBO's "Behind the Candelabra."

"I had the best teachers," Reynolds said in recalling her career. "God gave us talent, so we're so fortunate."



Carrie Fisher, right, presents Debbie Reynolds with the Screen Actors Guild life achievement award at the 21st annual Screen Actors Guild Awards at the Shrine Auditorium on Sunday, Jan. 25, 2015, in Los Angeles.

Sundance doc pulls back curtain on Scientology

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—“Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief” premiered Sunday at the Sundance Film Festival to a packed house—not with a star-studded red carpet, but with police protection.

A week before the premiere, the Church of Scientology took out full-page ads in the New York Times and Los Angeles Times claiming the documentary is filled with falsehoods.

Based on Lawrence Wright’s 2013 book of the same name, Oscar winner Alex Gibney’s film claims that the church routinely intimidates, manipulates and even tortures its members, tracing the rise of the religion and its founder, former science-fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard,

and his successor as head of the church, David Miscavige. Gibney also interviewed several former Scientology believers, including past executives.

Paul Haggis, the Oscar-winning director of “Crash,” left the church in 2009 after decades of membership.

“I was really stupid. I was part of this for 30 years before I spoke out,” he says in the film. “I was deeply ashamed.”

As Haggis climbed “the bridge” to the most enlightened levels of Scientology, he finally learned Hubbard’s ultimate theory: That a tyrannical galactic overlord named Xenu dropped frozen bodies from millions of years ago into volcanoes, and those spirits attach themselves

Sundance doc ‘Hot Girls Wanted’ explores amateur porn

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—“Teen” is the most searched term in online pornography, and thousands of young people enter the amateur porn industry every day, lured by promises of quick money and hopes for fame.

The disturbing world of amateur pornography—professionally produced films made to look like home movies—is exposed in the new documentary by Jill Bauer and Ronna Gradus, “Hot Girls Wanted,” which premiered Saturday at the Sundance Film Festival.

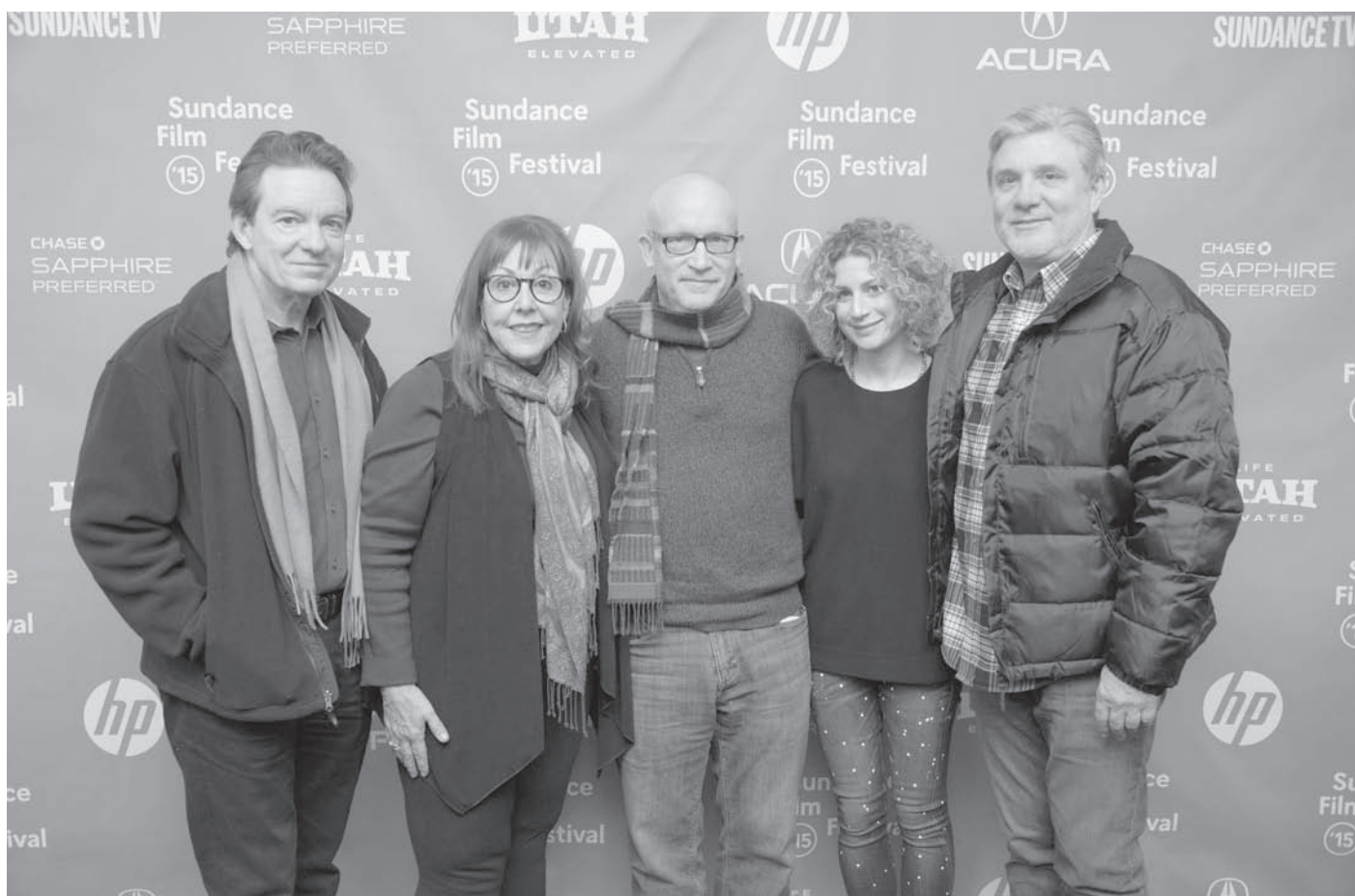
Craigslist ads promising free flights to Miami bring in a constant stream of would-be porn stars.

“Every day, another girl turns 18,” says Riley, a 23-year-old “agent” who hosts half a dozen young women eager to enter the industry at his Miami home. He says the career-span for these 18- to 21-year-olds is typically three months.

Teenagers who have grown up in the age of the Internet have always known porn is easy to find. And as pop culture has become more and more sexualized, the taboo against sex on film has faded for them, the attitude being, “We’re doing it anyway, why not get paid?”

The filmmakers said that according to current laws, it’s legal for anyone with a camera who calls himself a porn producer to solicit sex. The woman is technically being paid for her “performance,” not the sex act.

Tressa, an 18-year-old girl featured in the film, was attracted to porn as a way to escape her Texas hometown. She said she earned \$25,000 in her four months in the industry, but after paying for lingerie, manicures, makeup and biweekly STD tests, she only had about \$2,000 in her bank account when she quit the business.



From left to right, Author/producer Lawrence Wright, former Scientology church member Spanky Taylor, director Alex Gibney, Sara Bernstein, Senior Vice President of Programming for HBO Documentaries and former Scientology church member Mike Rinder attend the premiere of “Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief” during the 2015 Sundance Film Festival on Sunday, Jan. 25, 2015, in Park City, Utah. AP

to modern people today. Scientology is the means of ridding the body and mind of those spirits to become “clear.”

Another former member who left the church in 2013 said its approach is “like brainwashing.”

Several former church mem-

bers featured in the film attended Sunday’s premiere. Two said they were followed to Utah by Scientology investigators, who photographed them at the Salt Lake City airport.

The Church of Scientology released a statement Sunday that

characterizes these former believers as “the usual collection of obsessive, disgruntled former Church members kicked out as long as 30 years ago for malfeasance, who have a documented history of making up lies about the Church for money.”

The church says Gibney refused to meet with the 25 members it offered as sources. Gibney says the church declined all requests for interviews, as did Miscavige, John Travolta and Tom Cruise, both of whom are scientologists.

Kaling, Dunham, Wiig, Kohan talk women in Hollywood

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Lena Dunham dreams of the day when a man might say, “It’s impossible to get into Hollywood. It’s an old women’s network.”

The creative force behind HBO’s “Girls” shared the stage with “The Mindy Project” creator Mindy Kaling, “Bridesmaids” star and co-writer Kristen Wiig and “Orange Is the New Black” show-runner Jenji Kohan for a discussion on

women in Hollywood Saturday at the Sundance Film Festival.

The four women weighed in how they broke into the entertainment industry and the challenges they face as its minority gender.

All said they realized early on that if they wanted to tell the stories they cared most about, they’d have to take the reins and do it themselves. And they found TV a far friendlier environment for female voices than film.

“There’s just a lot more opportunity,” Kohan said. “It seems like film is really behind.”

Even with the success of “Weeds” and “Orange Is the New Black,” Kohan said the only scripts she’s been offered to write involve “weddings and moms.”

Dunham, too, said after earning acclaim for her first film, “Tiny Furniture,” she was given opportunities to pen such scripts as “Strawberry Short-

cake.” She wasn’t interested, so she created “Girls.”

They hope their current successes help pave the way for other women with Hollywood dreams. All four rely on writing teams populated by mostly women, but they don’t count men out.

“You shouldn’t have to just limit yourself to one gender,” Kohan said. “You want to work with whoever is the best at what they’re doing.”

Woman isn’t really attracted to the man of her dreams

DEAR ABBY: I am considered to be a quite attractive—easily a nine or a 10—professional dancer here in Las Vegas. I recently met a guy who has literally met almost all my dream qualities for a life partner, husband and father of my future children.

The problem is, I’m not attracted to him. He’s not ugly; he has symmetrical features, straight teeth, nice skin and is in pretty good shape, if a little on the skinny side. I have always dated muscular, very fit men who get me excited at the sight of them, and I’m wondering if there’s something wrong with me because after nine months I’m still struggling with his looks.

I feel like there is no sexual chemistry. But we have another kind of chemistry because we get along great, and he motivates me to be a better person.

Am I shallow, or is the lack of sexual chemistry a sign that maintaining a successful long-term relationship won’t happen?

MISS PICKY IN LAS VEGAS

DEAR MISS PICKY: I’m not going to call you shallow. Whether lack of sexual chemistry is a deal-breaker for you depends upon how important sex is to you. From what you have told me, looks are a primary factor in what draws you to men. (It would be interesting to know how long the relationships you described lasted.)

Bear in mind that men who are Adonises can lose their looks if they don’t consistently work at it—just as women do. Much as we might wish it, looks don’t always last forever. That’s why, if you’re looking for a long-term relationship, it’s extremely important to take into consideration qualities that will last.

DEAR ABBY: My 67-year-old mother has vascular dementia and breast cancer. In accordance with her living will and many conversations we had before the dementia began, we (Mom, my sisters and I) have decided to forgo treatment. She has been widowed for 17 years; she watched her husband—our father—die from cancer. She lives in an excellent health care facility that will provide her with palliative care when the time is right.

My question is, how do we inform people (family and friends) of her diagnosis and of our treatment plan? Without knowing the whole story, without having seen her very recently, it seems everyone has an opinion on what we “should” do. How do we tell these people that, while we appreciate their concern, this is her decision without hurting their feelings and our relationships?

FAMILY WITH A DILEMMA

DEAR DILEMMA: How do these unwanted advice givers

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



know that you do not plan to subject your mother to treatments that would only prolong her decline? If you solicited their opinion, you made a mistake. If you didn’t, then the last sentence of your letter—if said kindly—is an appropriate way to phrase the message.

Your mother’s treatment plan is nobody’s business but yours and your sisters’. If these are her wishes as stated in her advance directive for health care, then you should respect them. To do otherwise would be a betrayal of her trust.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

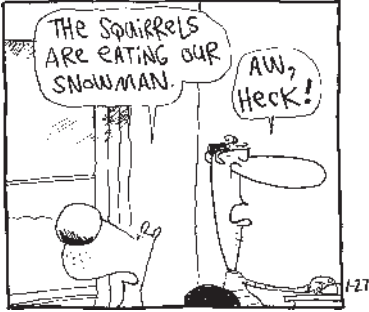
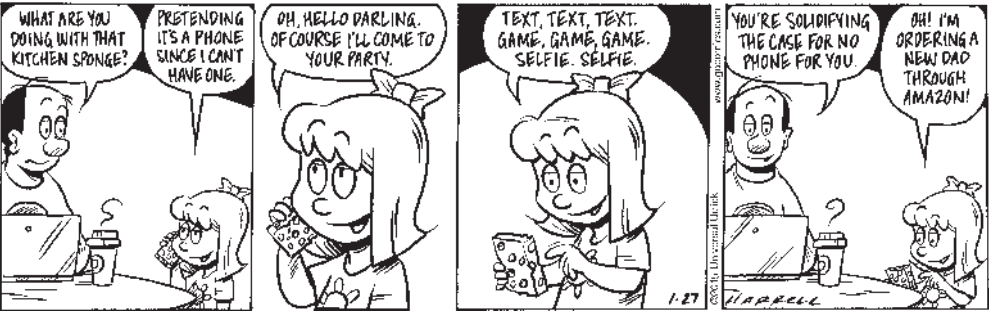


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 On the rocks

5 Bill and —

8 Grand tale

12 Old fogey

13 Sprinted

14 Old Italian money

15 Become too thin

17 "Once — a time ..."

18 Muppet eagle

19 To the — degree

20 Portion of an act

21 — out a living

22 Hawaiian garland

23 Festive

26 Is curious (about)

30 Neighbor-hood

31 Upper limit

32 Chills and fever

33 Equestrians' seats

35 Rock

36 Author Fleming

37 "Holy cow!"

38 Remove feathers

41 Have a bug

42 Founda-tion

45 Santa —, Calif.

46 Assess

48 Help on the sly

49 X rating?

50 Imperfec-tion

51 Days gone by

52 Illustra-tions

53 Unctuous

DOWN

1 Mid-March date

2 Pro-longed sleep

3 Dutch cheese

4 Grumpy companion?

5 Wooden box

6 Solemn promise

7 Insepara-ble

8 Explain fully

9 Prop for Sherlock

10 Press

11 Christ-mas candy, maybe

16 Black D.C.

20 D.C. honorific

21 Wipe out

22 Bagel topper

23 More, to Manuela

24 Historic period

25 Roulette bet

26 Existed

27 Id coun-terpart

28 Do a marathon

29 Get a glimpse of

31 Chaps

34 "Mighty — a Rose"

35 Vend

37 "Jack and the Bean-stalk" antago-nist

38 Implore

39 Timber wolf

40 Addict

41 State with certainty

42 Island near Java

43 List-shorten-ing abbr.

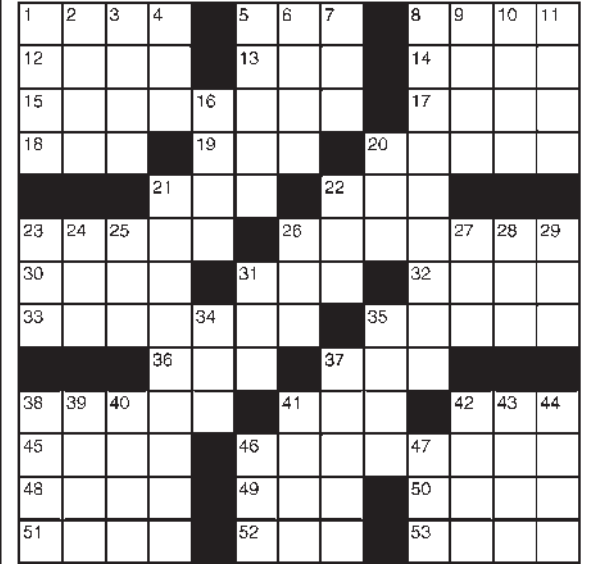
44 Moist in the morn

46 Greek H

47 Venusan vessel?

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterdays answer 1-27



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Pat-ton Oswalt, 46; Alan Cumming, 50; Bridget Fon-da, 51; Cris Collinsworth, 56.

Happy Birthday: You will have the wherewithal to jump into action and get things done. Your ability to take on additional responsibility will position you well for advancement. Emotional matters are likely to build if you don't take care of them swiftly. Love and romance are highlighted, and an attentive, nurturing display of emotions will lead to domestic and personal improve-ments. Your numbers are 3, 11, 21, 27, 33, 36, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Think big, but budget wisely. Keeping things in per-spective will make any gains you accom-plish sweeter. Romance is on the rise, and a positive change in your current living arrangement is apparent. A commitment can be made.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Share your thoughts and do your best to help others. Keep a close watch on the changes go-ing on around you, but don't let the temptation to follow suit get the better of you. Too much of anything will set you back.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Romantic relationships will suffer if you don't ad-dress your concerns honestly. Sorrow will result if you let anyone limit your freedom. Think twice before you make a promise you will live to regret. A personal move will be beneficial.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get into something that you have wanted to pur-sue for some time. A creative venture that

allows you to use your imagination will turn out well. Romance is on the upswing, and sharing your feelings will bring you closer to someone special.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Travel will open up new possibilities through the experi-ences you have or the people you en-counter. Consider signing up for a seminar that will help you expand an interest or skill you'd like to learn to enhance your marketability.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Use your at-tributes wisely. Don't let anyone put de-mands on you that will infringe on your ability to be and do your best, allowing you to reach your set goals. Put yourself first.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Keep your conversations with others light and play-ful. You will face difficulties if you ad-dress issues that you know aren't favored by others. Use your intelligence to identify those you would like to work with.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Say little and do a lot. It's how you handle situ-ations that will count in the end. If you pontificate without following through, your repu-tation will be jeopardized. Take an innovative but serious approach and you will advance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Focus on what you have accomplished in the past and you will bring about positive changes at home and at work. Expect someone to challenge you, and be ready to question the facts being offered to make you ap-pear incompetent.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Go over unexpected alterations being made by others. Look for obscure solutions and implement what you feel will protect you, your family and your current lifestyle. Don't be afraid to take action even if you are forced to do so alone.

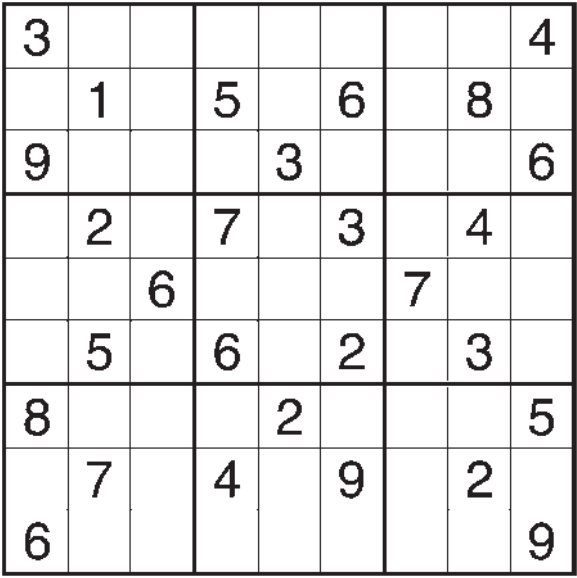
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will get the push you need to make self-improvements. Added discipline and greater opportunity are heading in your direction. Keep emotions steady and refrain from getting into conversations with anyone who appears unstable. Love is highlighted.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Make an honest assessment regarding who you are and what you have to offer. Look back at past experiences and correct the mistakes you've made before you move forward. Get the credentials you need to reach your goals. Birthday Baby: You are determined, unstoppable and proactive. You are smart and imaginative. Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ http://bit.ly/exhoro and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

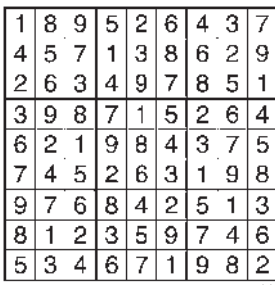


Difficulty Level ★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterdays SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizon-tally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BUTTERFLIES SYNCHOLIZE CHANGE Solution: 9 letters



© 2015 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 1/27 Animal, Blue, Caterpillar, Chrysalis, Cocoon, Colors, Diverse, Elegance, Emerges, Energy, Expansion, Faith, Grow, Insect, Lands, Larvae, Love, Luck, Mallow, Metamorphosis, Mind, Monarch, Nature, Painted, Phases, Process, Skipper, Specklewood, Stages, Tiny, Transformation, Transition, Vulnerability, Wings, World, Zabulon, Zebra Yesterday's Answer: Extremity To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 35, 37, 38, 39, 40 or 41, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

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Proficient in designing, building, or maintaining web sites. Minimum of 4 years experience required. Able to speak, read and write English, Chinese & Korean language. Email resume and police clearance to costaworldtour@hotmail.com. COSTA WORLD CORPORATION dba COSTA WORLD TOUR Tel: 235-9272

(3) Cooks. Specializes in Filipino Cuisine. Must have 3 years exp.

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Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, February 09, 2015

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• Compile list describing Marine Sports Activity Services
• Develop pricing strategies with the goal of maximizing the firms' profit or share of the market while ensuring the company's customers
• Able to speak English, Korean & Chinese Language
• Must have at least 3 years work related experience
Interested applicants, please send resume to santos_adonis@yahoo.com or call 670-323-2916

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Position Requirement: High school graduate. GED or equivalent plus 3 years work experience as cook in a restaurant or hotel. Preferably with experience in Western, Japanese and Chinese cuisines. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized and self-discipline. Must be able to communicate in English and Chinese language.

Please send application by email to: hr@clubcsaipan.com. Deadline for submission of completed applications is on February 13, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Wade, Bosh, Whiteside lead Heat over Bulls 96-84



CHICAGO (AP)—Hassan Whiteside bounced around the NBA Development league and played in China and Lebanon, hoping NBA teams were keeping tabs and would give him an opportunity.

He was in Charlotte, working out at the downtown YMCA, a few months ago. He then got his chance with the Heat and he's making the most of it.

Whiteside had an unconventional triple-double with a team-record and career-high 12 blocks to go with 14 points and 13 rebounds to help Miami beat the sluggish Chicago Bulls 96-84 Sunday.

"It's a blessing. Like I told my teammates, you won't believe how things work out in life," said Whiteside, who signed with Miami in late November. "Three months ago I was at the downtown Y just chilling, working on my game. I couldn't get a team to pick up the phone."

On Sunday, he made the Bulls miserable. His teammates did their part, too.

Dwyane Wade scored 26 points, and Chris Bosh finished with 20.

Luol Deng scored 15 in his return to Chicago. Mario Chalmers had 15 points, and the Heat squashed whatever momentum the Bulls appeared to be building after beating San Antonio and Dallas.

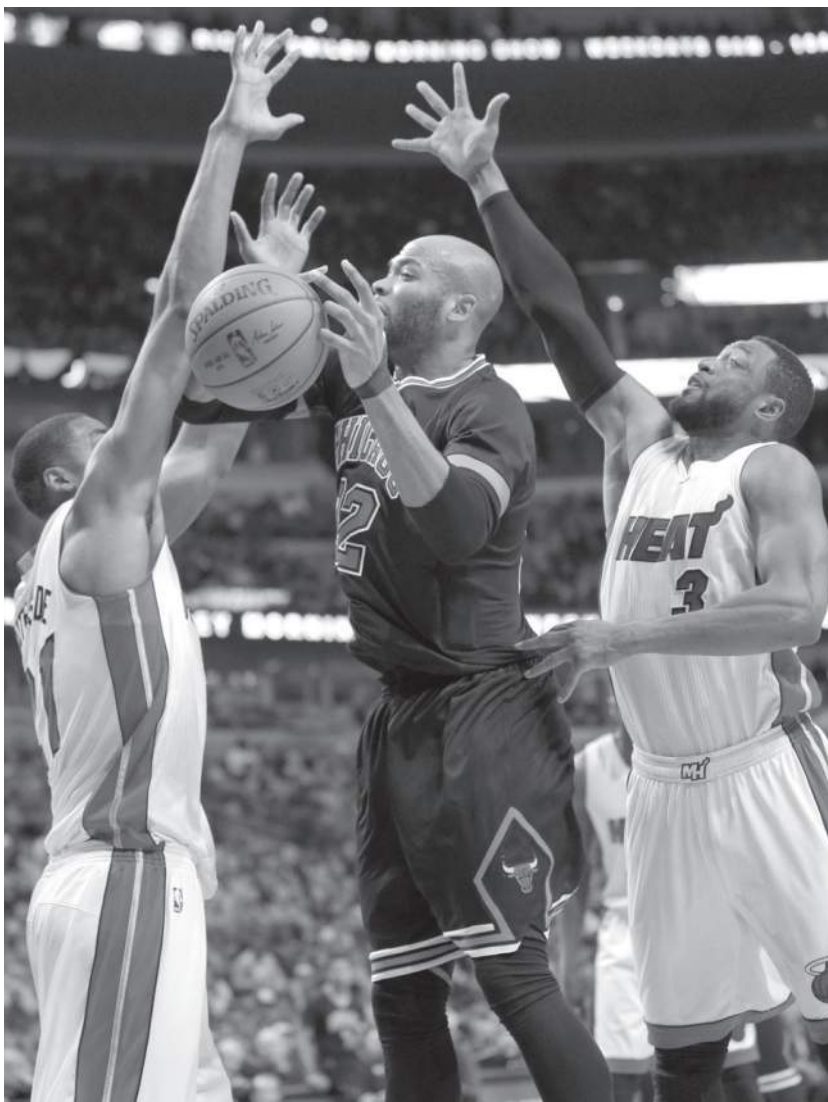
Miami led by 10 at halftime, 12 going into the fourth quarter and remained in control the rest of the way.

Wade and Bosh came through with strong performances. Deng had 10 rebounds and four assists in his first game at the United Center since the Bulls traded him to Cleveland last season. And Whiteside wreaked all kinds of havoc in just 24 minutes after missing two games with a sprained right ankle.

Pau Gasol had 13 points and 17 rebounds for Chicago, giving him 50 over the past three games. Derrick Rose scored 19 for Chicago but missed all six 3-pointers.

Aaron Brooks scored 17. But Chicago fell to 13-11 at home.

It was certainly not what the Bulls had in mind after handing the Spurs their most lopsided loss of the season Thursday in Chicago and then winning at Dallas the following night. Those two wins on the heels of a 2-6 slide seemed like strong signals they were coming around. But this was a big step back. Worse, the Bulls are staring at a tough six-game trip that starts Tuesday



Miami Heat center Hassan Whiteside (21) and guard Dwyane Wade (3) guard Chicago Bulls forward Taj Gibson (22) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Chicago on Sunday, Jan. 25, 2015.

at Golden State.

"I don't know if there's a straight explanation for it," Gasol said. "We understand the importance of every game, especially here at home. We're trying to get ourselves going, get in some kind of rhythm but we haven't been able to do it yet."

The Bulls were within 83-76 after Brooks' four-point play with 6:36 left in the game. But the Heat stayed in control thanks to three dunks by Whiteside in about a two-minute span.

That spree started with an alley-oop from Chalmers and continued with a dunk over Gasol off a feed from Deng to make it an 11-point game.

Whiteside then answered a layup by Chicago's Taj Gibson with another dunk, his third in about a two-minute span.

"What he's doing is, of course, more than I expected," Bosh said. "But I

kinda saw the fit (after he signed). He's just playing at a high level right now. I just want him to stay grounded, just continue to work."

Hawks 112, Timberwolves 100

In Atlanta, Paul Millsap scored 20 points and Al Horford added 19 as Eastern Conference-leading Atlanta topped the Minnesota Timberwolves 112-100 on Sunday, extending the Hawks' club record with their 16th straight win.

Jeff Teague finished with 15 points and seven of Atlanta's 30 assists as the Hawks won for the 30th time in 32 games.

Thaddeus Young had 26 points and Mo Williams added 20 for Minnesota. The Timberwolves, who are last in the Western Conference, have lost four straight and 20 of 22.

Cavaliers 108, Thunder 98

In Cleveland, LeBron James scored 34

points, including the first eight in the fourth quarter, as the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Oklahoma City Thunder for their sixth straight win.

James made a pair of 3-pointers and a nasty fade-away jumper to give the Cavs a 91-80 lead. Later, the four-time MVP fed Kevin Love for a 3-pointer with 3:38 left that put the Thunder away. The Cavs are 6-1 since James returned after missing eight games with a strained back and knee.

Love added 19 points and 13 rebounds, Kyrie Irving scored 21, and Tristan Thompson had 16 rebounds.

Kevin Durant scored 32 and Russell Westbrook had 22 for the Thunder, who went 3-2 on their longest road trip this season.

Pacers 106, Magic 99

In Orlando, Florida, David West scored 20 points and reserve Damjan Rudez added a career-high 18 as the Indiana Pacers ended a seven-game losing streak with a win over the Orlando Magic.

The Pacers trailed by seven entering the fourth quarter, but got 16 points from Rudez in the final 12 minutes. They outscored the Magic 31-17 in the quarter.

George Hill had 17 points and six rebounds for Indiana in just his second game back from a left groin strain.

Nik Vucevic led four Magic players in double figures with 27 points. It was the ninth straight Orlando opponent to score at least 100 points.

Clippers 120, Suns 100

In Phoenix, Blake Griffin and Chris Paul scored 23 points each as the Los Angeles Clippers used a 15-0 fourth-quarter run to beat the Phoenix Suns.

J.J. Redick scored 20 and DeAndre Jordan added 18 for the Clippers, who are 3-0 against the Suns this season. Los Angeles has won nine of its past 11 against Phoenix.

Isaiah Thomas scored 25 points and Eric Bledsoe added 17 for the Suns, who have lost two straight after winning seven in a row at home.

Pelicans 109, Mavericks 106

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis capped a 28-point, 10-rebound outing with go-ahead free throws in the final seconds and a pivotal steal, as the New Orleans Pelicans won their third straight game.

Tyreke Evans scored 24 points, in-

cluding a clutch running hook in the final half-minute, and Ryan Anderson added 18 points.

Monta Ellis scored 36 points and Dirk Nowitzki added 24 points for Dallas, which has lost two straight.

Warriors 114, Celtics 111

In Oakland, California, Stephen Curry had 22 points and 11 assists, and Klay Thompson scored 31 points as the Golden State Warriors beat the Boston Celtics for their 19th consecutive home win.

Andrew Bogut added 13 points and 13 rebounds to help the Warriors stay unbeaten in 14 games against the Eastern Conference this season. Golden State also improved its NBA-best record to 36-6.

Two nights after scoring an NBA-record 37 points in the third quarter of Golden State's 126-101 win over Sacramento, Thompson was 11 for 19 from the field and 6 for 8 at the line.

Jared Sullinger had 26 points and nine rebounds for the Celtics, who have lost four of six.

Wizards 117, Nuggets 115, OT

In Denver, John Wall scored six of his 19 points in overtime and had 16 assists as the Washington Wizards beat the Denver Nuggets.

Kris Humphries had a season-high 21 points and 14 rebounds to help Washington stop a two-game skid.

Ty Lawson had 31 points and 12 assists in his return to the Nuggets' lineup. Lawson missed a tying jumper in the waning seconds of overtime. Lawson was back after missing Friday's game after being arrested on suspicion of driving while impaired early Friday morning. Lawson returned to practice Saturday.

Rockets 99, Lakers 87

In Los Angeles, James Harden had 37 points and eight rebounds as the Houston Rockets rolled past the Lakers, sending Los Angeles to its eighth straight defeat.

Harden hit four 3-pointers, and the NBA's leading scorer added five assists in the Rockets' third victory in four games.

Josh Smith and Jason Terry had 11 points apiece as Houston cruised to its fourth straight road victory over the Lakers even without Dwight Howard, who sat out after injuring his right ankle two days ago.

Carlos Boozer scored 18 points for the Lakers, who are on their longest losing streak in nearly 10 years.

Serena Williams to meet Cibulkova in Aussie Open quarters



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Serena Williams avenged her heaviest Grand Slam defeat with a comeback 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 win over Garbine Muguruza on Monday to reach the Australian Open quarterfinals.

The top-ranked Williams was pushed all the way by No. 24-seeded Muguruza, who matched her in the heavy-hitting rallies, and who had conceded only four games to her in a second-round upset last year at the French Open.

Five-time Australian Open winner Williams next faces Dominika Cibulkova, who reproduced the kind of tennis that helped her reach the final here last year as she beat two-time champion Victoria Azarenka 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

Defending champion Stan Waw-

rinka beat Guillermo Garcia-Lopez 7-6 (2), 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (8) to move into the men's quarterfinals, where he'll play either No. 5 Kei Nishikori or No. 9 David Ferrer.

Williams appeared to be laboring at times, and had a serious cough. She struggled with her serve in the first set, winning only one of a dozen points on her second serve as the 21-year-old Spaniard went on the attack. She couldn't convert her six break-point chances, while Muguruza broke her twice.

"She hits the ball really, really big, really, really hard," Williams said. "Someone in the crowd was like 'C'mon Serena use spin' and I was like 'OK.' There's coaches everywhere out here! Thank you."

Williams hasn't advanced past the quarterfinals at Melbourne Park since

winning her last title here in 2010.

There was a lot to distract her. In the first set, a six planes were doing coordinated loops and tricks in the sky over Rod Laver Arena, as part of the national day celebrations in downtown Melbourne. She had difficulty breathing at times, and had heaving coughing fit into a towel at a changeover.

"I've been a little sick the past couple days but I just love it here," Williams said, when asked if she'd swallowed a fly. "When I got down, I was thinking, 'What can I do now? Whatever happens, I thought, I've won this five times.'"

She gradually picked up power in the second set, broke for a 5-3 lead and then fired three aces and a service winner to level the match at 1-1, screaming as she pumped her fist.

After missing break points on Mugu-

ruza's serve in the opening game of the third, Williams saved six break points and needed almost 13 minutes to hold.

Her confidence up, Williams broke for a 3-2 lead and dominated the rest of the match.

She'll need every bit of confidence against the 1.61-meter (5-foot-3) Cibulkova, who pounded 44 winners and broke former No. 1-ranked Azarenka's serve seven times to reach a Grand Slam quarterfinal for the sixth time.

The No. 10-ranked Cibulkova lost the final here last year to the now-retired Li Na, and is back in that kind of form.

"I just walked onto the court and all great memories came to my mind," she said, reflecting on how her run last year is inspiring her at the Australian Open, "I thought 'I'm a great player and I can do it.'"

"As you can see, I'm not the tallest player on tour, I need to have something extra if I want to beat these top players," she said of her heavy ground strokes. "This is my energy on the court, this is how I play."

Azarenka, unseeded this year after her ranking slipped into the 40s following an injury-interrupted 2014, won the Australian title in 2012 and '13 and reached the quarterfinals last year. She opened the tournament with a win over 2013 semifinalist Sloane Stephens and then defeated No. 8-seeded Caroline Wozniacki—the U.S. Open finalist last year and former No. 1—and No. 25 Barbora Zahlavov Stryova.

Rain showers forced the roofs on all three stadium courts to be closed early, but they opened for later matches when the weather cleared.

Watt gets 2 turnovers, dances in friendly Pro Bowl



G L E N - DALE, Ariz. (AP)—J.J. Watt danced, Jimmy Graham dunked, Odell Beckham Jr. dazzled.

The Pro Bowl in the desert was all about having a good time.

Few moved very fast, no one flattened a quarterback and there were no bone-jarring hits in the gentle, friendly version of football played Sunday.

Even in a game dominated by offense, Watt was the star.

The Texans defensive end intercepted pass, recovered a fumble and led the crowd in dances during commercial breaks.

Team Irvin defeated 32-28 Watt's Team Carter, but the score doesn't matter in the NFL's all-star game. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, no one more so than Watt, moving to the music while the cheerleaders danced.

"I just tried to enjoy it," he said. "That's what the Pro Bowl is all about, giving the fans a good show. Everybody worked so hard to get here, you want to enjoy yourself and play some good ball. Guys are dancing around and having a good time, that's what it's all about."

In its one year out of Hawaii, the game drew a sellout crowd of 63,225.

Memorable moments came from Graham, the Saints' tight end who dunked over the crossbar twice after TD catches—this time with no penalty, and Giants rookie Beckham, who made a diving grab at midfield.

Graham's second touchdown, on a 1-yard, fourth-down pass from Matt Ryan, was the win-

ning TD with 3:10 to play.

Greg Olsen and Emmanuel Sanders also caught a pair of touchdown passes apiece. Andrew Luck was nearly perfect in his short time on the field, completing 9 of 10 for 119 yards and two scores. Matthew Stafford threw for 316 yards and two TDs and was the offensive MVP.

The Pro Bowl took a one-year hiatus from Hawaii to be played in the desert a week before the Super Bowl. The big crowd watched the teams moved up and down the field, often without much resistance.

"You don't have hardly any time to get timing down or anything else," New Orleans quarterback Drew Brees said. "So much of what you're doing out there is street ball."

If the players missed the beach, they wouldn't let on.

"It's been fantastic," Dallas quarterback Tony Romo said. "The turnout here at the stadium is just like an NFL game."

Romo knew this wasn't a real NFL game.

The difference between Hawaii and Arizona?

"More fans," Cardinals cornerback Patrick Peterson said. "I believe it gives the fans an opportunity—it's a little bit more inexpensive trip versus going across the water. So I think it's definitely getting more fans engaged in the game."

"It's a blast," Stafford said. "To be able to play with the best in the world is a whole lot of fun, and everybody is such good people, too. I am out here having a good time."

The NFL scrapped the AFC vs. NFC format last year in favor of having two big-name for-



Houston Texans' J.J. Watt (99) holds up the ball after intercepting a pass during the first half of the NFL Football Pro Bowl Sunday, Jan. 25, 2015, in Glendale, Ariz.

mer players draft players four days before the game. This year,

the honor went to Michael Irvin and Cris Carter.

There were teammates playing against teammates.

Patriots' Browner gets a 2nd chance at a Super Bowl ring

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Brandon Browner received a Super Bowl ring last year even though he was watching from home 3,000 miles from the Seattle Seahawks when they won the title.

Now the hard-hitting cornerback has a shot at more diamonds and another title, going face-to-face with receivers when the New England Patriots play his former team Sunday.

It's a matchup Browner craved after missing last season's Super Bowl while under suspension for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy and then signing with the Patriots in March.

"It's crazy, man," Browner said. "I really had that vision when I signed here. Hopefully, we'd meet up with my old boys and it happened to work out that way."

While Seattle was pounding Denver 43-8 in New Jersey to win the championship, Browner watched from his Los Angeles-area home, frustrated he couldn't be on the field.

His indefinite suspension cost him the last two regular-season games plus three post-season games. In March, the

indefinite exile was revised to four more games. Ten days later, he signed with the Patriots. After serving the suspension, he was inactive for two games then took over at cornerback opposite Darrelle Revis.

"He deserves a lot of credit to sit out four games and then come back and fall back right in stride," Patriots safety Devin McCourty said. "He hasn't missed a beat since he's been back."

At 6-foot-4 and 221 pounds, Browner has a physical style that can intimidate opponents but also hurt the Patriots. He committed 13 penalties while playing in nine regular-season games. But he hasn't backed off.

"He's brought an edge to the defense," McCourty said.

Now he has added incentive, a chance at a second straight NFL title against a team he has no ill feelings for.

"I was blessed and fortunate," said Browner, who served another four-game suspension in 2012 for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy. "I was suspended over there and I was still able to get a ring. That was

a decision by the coach and the owner to give me that. They didn't have to."

Since joining Revis, McCourty and safety Patrick Chung, Browner has solidified an already strong secondary that has great depth with Kyle Arrington, Duron Harmon and Logan Ryan. McCourty said it's the most complete secondary he's been part of in five NFL seasons, all with the Patriots.

Next up is Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson, a constant threat to run who can turn busted plays into critical ones—like his 2-point conversion pass after a scramble in Seattle's 28-22 win over the Green Bay Packers for the NFC championship.

Browner will try to cover his receiver for as long as it takes to keep Wilson from completing a pass.

"Brandon Browner is a great professional," Patriots defensive coordinator Matt Patricia said, "a guy that's very intense, has a great work ethic, really studies hard, has a very competitive side and really wants to try to get everything right."

When Green Bay's Jordy Nelson made a pretty fingertip touchdown catch from Brees for Team Carter. He celebrated with his Packers teammate Clay Matthews, who was playing for the other team.

Beckham dove to the ground and gathered in Stafford's long pass just as the ball was about to hit the ground. When Graham caught a six-yard touchdown pass from Stafford, he soared to dunk the ball over crossbar. The New Orleans tight end was fined \$30,000 when he did that twice, and was penalized both times, in a preseason game. There was no penalty on Sunday.

"I really wanted to catch one here because this is I guess the only place I can dunk without a flag," Graham said. "But you know, the league called down and told me not to hang on it, so I didn't."

The goal posts were narrowed to from 18.6 feet to 14 feet on all kicks, not just PATs as had been previously announced. The PATs also were moved back to make it a 33-yard kick.

The skinny posts claimed an unlikely victim when Adam Vinatieri missed two PATs. The 42-year-old Colts kicker hasn't missed an extra point in real games in five years. He also missed a 38-yard field goal.

Another rule was no blitzing. Denver's Von Miller violated that one and, on the next play after the unsportsmanlike conduct penalty, Luck threw a 14-yard touchdown pass to his Indianapolis teammate T.Y. Hilton.

"It's very special, the chemistry that we have," Hilton said.

Winners got what amounts to pocket change for them—\$55,000 apiece, losers \$28,000.

Richard Sherman doubts any punishment ahead for Patriots

PHOENIX (AP)—Relishing no longer being in the "villain" role, Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman is painting his team's Super Bowl opponent as occupying that position.

He also doubts that the Patriots will be punished by the NFL if they are found guilty of doctoring footballs in the AFC championship game.

"I think the perception is the reality," Sherman said Sunday after the defending champions arrived in Phoenix. "It is what it is. Their resume speaks for itself. The past is what the past is. Their present is what their present is. And, will they be punished? Probably not."

The All-Pro cited NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell's close relationship with New England owner Robert Kraft as his main reason for being skeptical.

"Not as long as Robert Kraft and Roger Goodell are

still taking pictures at their respective homes. He was just at Kraft's house last week for the AFC championship," Sherman added. "You talk about conflict of interest."

"But as long as that happens, it won't affect them at all. Nothing will."

Patriots coach Bill Belichick said Saturday the team "followed every rule to the letter" in preparing footballs on game day. New England arrives in Phoenix on Monday as the league's investigation into under-inflated balls continues.

This is the second Super Bowl in which accusations of cheating have followed the Patriots. During their unbeaten 2007 regular season, they were fined \$250,000 and Belichick was docked \$500,000 for spying on New York Jets coaches' signals. New England lost to the New York Giants in that Super Bowl.

Atalig draws 1st blood in NMI golf team tryouts

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

J.J. Atalig became one of the early favorites to secure a spot on the CNMI men's national golf team after the veteran parbaster shot the lowest score in the first open tryout last Saturday at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Ed Peters, who is supervising the open tryouts, in a telephone interview said that Atalig shot a gross score of 76 to top the first of the five-round open

tryouts that will end on Feb. 21.

The tryouts are held to select four members of the CNMI men's national golf team that will compete in the 2015 Pacific Games set from July 4 to 18 in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

Atalig is a regular fixture in various golf tournaments in the CNMI and late last year ruled two consecutive fundraising events—with Joey Dela Cruz in the 2014 Steven Brownstein/Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Classic in October and the Hyatt Regency Saipan Charity Golf Classic.

Joe Camacho came in second,

while Peters, who is hoping to coach the men's team, finished third. Adam Hardwicke and Franco Santos are tied for fourth place.

The gross scores of all participants after they complete the five rounds will be compiled to determine the Top 12 who will make the final cut and move on to the next stage where they will play another five rounds. Each tryout plays 18 holes.

The Top 5 players, including the alternate, after the final five-round qualifying stage will represent the CNMI in the XV Pacific Games. The

Royal Port Moresby Golf Club in the National Capital District will host the golf event.

Teams will fight for 12 medals at stake in the men's and women's singles and the men's and women's team events in the quadrennial sporting event.

Peters is hoping to form a strong team that will hopefully bring home a medal of any color.

New Caledonia remains the favorite after sweeping all four gold medals in the 2011 Games they hosted in Noumea, while Samoa, Tahiti, and the

Cook Islands are also no pushovers.

Meanwhile, COP will still host the second and third rounds of the open tryouts on Jan. 31 and Feb. 7, while the final two stages will be held at Kingfisher Golflinks on Feb. 14 and 21. The registration and start times are still at 10 and 11 a.m.

Peters added the tryouts are open to all golfers. In the last four rounds, participants will only pay the green fee and an additional \$20 for Team CNMI's fund to the Pacific Games.

For more information, call Peters at 288-7482 or 788-7664.

KB Hite, Blue Haus win Masters opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

KB Hite and Blue Haus opened their bid in the 2015 Graphics Invitational Masters Basketball League with double-digit winning margin against separate opponents last Sunday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Blue Haus and Bammy's Restaurant kicked off the hostilities in the 45-and-above league that allowed each team to be reinforced by three 40-and-above players with the former bagging an 82-70 victory. In the second game, KB Hite topped Saipan Warriors, 95-85.

KB Hite leaned on a strong start in the fourth quarter to establish its biggest lead at 16, 81-65, and withstood the Warriors' late rally to win its debut.

Ahead by only 6 at the end of the third period, 71-65, Edgar Pangelinan anchored KB Hite's 10-0 scoring in the first three minutes of the fourth period, knocking in 8 straight points off back-to-back triples and a fastbreak layup.

With KB Hite pulling away, Saipan Warriors sued for time and when the

game resumed they launched their own rally, an 10-2 blast, to bring the deficit down to single digit, 75-83, with 5:05 left on the clock. However, KB Hite answered with another spurt—a short 7-0 run—to put the game away for good. Marlon Sison scored 4 in that rally off a triple and a free throw, while Pangelinan also split his charity, and Randy Mungcal nailed a layup before failing to complete a three-point play.

Pangelinan top-scored for KB Hite with his 30 points, while Sison added 25, as the two shooters torched the hoops with their triples, combining for 12 shots beyond the arc.

In the first game, Blue Haus recovered from a slow start to beat Bammy's Restaurant.

Blue Haus faced a 16-22 deficit after the first period before getting its act together in the remaining three quarters en route to the 12-point victory.

Blue Haus grabbed the lead at the break, 38-31, after picking up its scoring a bit in the second frame, while holding Bammy's to 9 points. Seven different players hit the board for Blue Haus in the second canto, while only three had field goals for Bammy's.

Junar Guiab led Blue Haus' balance

offense, firing 18 points, while Ernie Moises and Matt Buenabajo chipped in 15 and 10, respectively. Three other Blue Haus players contributed at least 7 points each. Alex Ocampo had 25 markers to pace Bammy's, which drew 19 from Jun Tabora. Jorge De Guzman was the third Bammy's player to hit double figures with his 10 points, but he was scoreless in the second half, allowing Blue Haus to maintain its safe distance against its foe.

First Game

Blue Haus 82—Guiab 18, Moises 15, Buenabajo 10, Santos 9, Fernandez 8, Mendoza 7, Factor 4, Macoto 4.

Bammy's 70—Ocampo 25, Tabora 19, De Guzman 10, Alipio 5, Saplan 4, Catala 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-22, 38-31, 58-53, 82-70.

Second Game

KB Hite 95—Pangelinan 31, Sison 25, Mungcal 10, Duenas 8, Yalung 4, Pineda 4, Montes 3, Garcia 2.

Saipan Warriors 85—Miguel 17, Geli 17, Del Rio 14, Alano 8, Catindoy 8, Surima 6, Lopez 4, Abadilla 3, Salazar 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-15, 48-41, 71-65, 95-85.

house in Mangilao.

It was also Masga's second straight win after losing by technical submission—rear-naked choke—in the third round to Guam's Ricky "2 Slick" Camp (4-3, with 2 KOs) in Rites of Passage 16: Unleashed in April last year. His first was recorded against Daniel Floor at Rites of Passage 17 also last year.

Eclavea is no pushover as the Guam fighter, who holds a 3-1 card with 2 wins by submission, is coming off a unanimous decision victory against compatriot Mike Sanchez (1-1) also in PXC 45.

Shane Alvarez will be fighting in May in a separate PXC event when he visits the Philippines to challenge former PXC bantamweight champion Crisanto Pitpitunge of Baguio City's famous Lakay MMA.

Alvarez (10-2, with 3 KOs and 3 submissions) is aiming for some payback after Pitpitunge handed stablemate Duenas his fifth loss in last year's PXC 44 in Guam.

Alvarez is also coming off a loss to Ultimate Fighting Championship veteran Darren Uyenoyama of San Francisco, California (9-5, with 4 submissions) in PXC 45 last October.

Pitpitunge, after dropping two straight matches, including a unanimous decision defeat to Japanese challenger Michinori Tanaka that cost him the 135-pound belt in PXC 37 almost two years ago, is fresh from a split decision win over former Thai kickboxer Rambaa Somdet in November.

Duenas (4-5, with 3 submissions) is still waiting for PXC's confirmation on the schedule of his next fight and his opponent.

while Travilla and Reyes chipped in 7 and 5, respectively.

Jeraldine Castillo led Shirley's losing cause with her 24 points. She got help only from three of her teammates, while IT&E had 7 players making it to the board.

Meanwhile, Fiesta also ended the elimination round with a win after routing Kanoa Resort, 49-27.

Fiesta turned on the heat in the second half after holding on to a 22-19

edge at the turn. Fiesta more than tripled Kanoa's output in the final 20 minutes of play, 27-8, to cruise to its sixth win.

Kanoa finished the elimination round with only two wins and both were recorded against Sun Palace. Kanoa missed its third win after tallying only two field goals in the second half of their game versus Fiesta. Rose Jones and Kelsey Lizama notched one field goal apiece with the latter adding four free throws to top-score for



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A KB Hite player is pressured from the backcourt by a Saipan Warriors defender during their game in the opening day of the Graphics Masters caging last Sunday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

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10-point lead after one quarter, 14-4, which later ballooned to 15 at the turn, 27-12.

MHS' scoring picked up in the third to trim the lead to 9, 37-28, before setting up the thrilling finale.

Cruz paced Southern with 12 points, while Isaac Anderson scored 10. June Alipio, Frances Muna, and N-Nes Siech combined for 14 markers.

Dalton Dancoc led MHS' losing cause with 11 points, while Warren El-lama, Jerald Castillo, and Evan Miller tallied 8, 6, and 5, respectively.

Fatigue could have been a factor in MHS' loss as the Junior Dolphins were coming off a 49-23 thrashing of Kago High School 9 in the first game.

MHS overcame a slow start and pulled away in the second quarter for the easy win.

Michael Cenir topscored for MHS with 14 points, while Leowell Cristobal and Castillo added 7 and 5 markers, respectively.

Only four players scored for KHS 9 with Christian Arceo ending up with 15 and Enrique Rabauliman adding 4. Don Babauta and Patrick Santos

had one field goal each.

With Saipan Southern winning over MHS, the Rays remained undefeated after four games. MHS dropped to 3-1 with the loss, while KHS 9 completes the standing and holds a 1-3 slate.

Meanwhile, the third match of the night between Grace Christian Academy (1-4) and Marianas Baptist Academy (0-5) was still being played at press time and results will be reported later.

First Game

MHS JV 49—Cenir 14, Cristobal 7, Castillo 5, Diaz 4, Ermitanio 4, Bucayo 3, Cudia 3, Deocares 3, Dancoc 2, El-lama 2, Floresca 2.

KHS 9 23—Arceo 15, Rabauliman 4, Babauta 2, Santos 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-8, 30-12, 36-17, 49-23.

Second Game

SSHS JV 47—Cruz 12, Anderson 10, Alipio 6, Muna 4, Siech 4, Aque 3, Borromeo 3, Cobacha 3, Taitano 2.

MHS JV 36—Dancoc 11, Ellama 8, Castillo 6, Miller 5, Bucayo 2, Cenir 2, Deocares 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-4, 27-12, 37-28, 47-36.

TRENCH

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Cuki Alvarez told *Saipan Tribune* that the three are scheduled to have two to three fights this year until 2016.

"They will be busy until 2016. But of course all three of them have been training non-stop to remain in shape and in fighting form," said the older Alvarez.

Masga (5-1, with 3 by submission) will be the first to climb the PXC cage when he takes on Scotty "Da Slaya" Eclavea of Guam in PXC's inaugural event in 2015.

Masga is still fresh from winning his PXC debut in PXC 45 where he scored a unanimous decision victory against hometown bet McKlane Alfred (3-2, with 1 knockout) last Oct. 24 at the University of Guam Field-

ARMATECH

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including 7 straight early in that period.

In the first game, IT&E also had to fight back after falling behind by as much as 9 in the first half, 10-19.

The trio of Kyla Ito, Karleen Reyes, and Jan Travilla teamed up in IT&E's second-half attack, combining for 22 of the squad's 27 points in the final frame. Ito nailed 13 points in the second half,

Kanoa with her 12 markers.

FRIDAY

Fiesta 49—Pena 16, Reyes 13, Francisco 12, Demola 4, Bergosa 2, Garon 2.

Kanoa 27—Lizama 12, Iriarte 6, Agulto 5, Ngirausui 2, Jones 2.

Scoring by halves: 22-19, 49-27.

SATURDAY

First Game

IT&E 53—Ito 19, Travilla 12, Reyes 7,

Lopez 6, Williams 4, Sablan 3, Alegre 2.

Shirley's 47—Castillo 24, Pablo 17, Vergara 4, Ito 2.

Scoring by halves: 24-26, 53-47.

Second Game

Armotech 42—Alipio 25, Alferos 8, Fleming 5, Aldan 2, Palero 2.

Sun Palace 38—Lumabi 10, Abadilla 10, Tamang 6, Francisco 4, C. Avelino 2, D. Avelino 2, Castro 2, Olivos 2.

Scoring by halves: 15-16, 42-38.

2014 SSS Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament U15 Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Astig Futsal's Junsik Kim, 8, is denied of a shot as Real Crispy Pata's defense steps in during their boys U15 title game in the 2014 SSS Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament at the TSL Sports Complex. Real Crispy Pata won in the shootout, 5-3.



Mareko Tekopua unloads a shot that slips through the defense of Real Crispy Pata's Clayton Izuka, left, and Bada Lee.



Real Crispy Pata's Cody Leon, center, stays close to Astig Futsal's Junsik Kim, left, while James Ermitanio looks on.



Astig Futsal players and coach Jerh Angeles huddle before the shootout.



Astig Futsal's James Ermitanio, left, beats Real Crispy Pata's Sunjoon Tenorio to the ball.



Astig Futsal's Ryan Relucio goes for a kick against two Realty Crispy Pata players.



Real Crispy Pata's Sunjoon Tenorio celebrates after scoring off his own miss.



Real Crispy Pata players line up while waiting for the shootout.



Real Crispy Pata's defense gets ready for Astig Futsal's corner kick.



Real Crispy Pata's Bada Lee stretches to stop an Astig Futsal player's dribble.



Watt gets 2 turn-overs, dances in friendly Pro Bowl

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Wade, Bosh, Whiteside lead Heat over Bulls 96-84

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Southern trips MHS in all-JV game

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School had some anxious moments before completing a 47-36 drubbing of Marianas High School in their junior varsity match in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization High School Boys Basketball League yesterday at the MHS Gymnasium.



MHS JV, which was down by 15 points at the half-time break, went on an 8-5 exchange to move within six, 42-36, with still 1:40 left in the game.

Luck, however, sided with the Southern JV side as MHS, playing its second straight game on the same day, failed to score after that and the junior Manta Rays sealed the win on a split free throw by Jethro Cruz and Art Borromeo's two charities.

Saipan Southern opened with a

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JON PEREZ

Marianas High School's Earl Ermitanio, 24, is fouled by a Saipan Southern High School player, while Ronel Aque, 8, looks on during their junior varsity game in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League yesterday at the MHS Gymnasium.

Trench Tech fighters renew PXC deals

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TRENCH TECH fighters Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez, Josh "Chaos" Due-

nas, and Vince "The Clinch" Masga signed fresh six-fight deals with Pacific X-Treme Combat, making them busy until 2016.

Trench Tech promoter **See TRENCH on Page 26**



JON PEREZ

Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez competes in last year's Art of War 9: Grappling, Submission and Jiu jitsu Challenge. Alvarez is set to fight again in May this year in a Pacific X-treme Combat event in the Philippines.

Armatech sweeps elims; IT&E triumphs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Armatech and IT&E capped their elimination round campaign in the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic with wins against separate foes to clinch the Top 2 spots in the women's division contest last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Armatech played in the final match of the double-round robin elims and eked out a 42-38 victory over Sun Palace for a 10-game sweep, while IT&E downed Shirley's Coffee Shop, 53-47, in the penultimate tiff.

Both Armatech and IT&E (7-3) will be paired against lower-seeded teams and are favored to survive the semis and arrange a winner-take-all championship showdown this weekend. Armatech will be pitted against the fourth-ranked Shirley's (5-5) this Thursday, while IT&E will duel third finisher Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan (6-4) this Friday.



The No. 1 Armatech managed to earn a sweep despite missing key players Irish Pag-arao and Jeralyn Castillo in its final match in the elimination. Chevy Kate Alipio stepped up in place of her two teammates, scoring 25 points in Armatech's 4-point victory over Sun Palace, which ended its bid in the tournament winless in 10 games.

Armatech needed a lift from Alipio, as Sun Palace threatened an upset, keeping close with its highly favored foe. Sun Palace cling to a 16-15 lead at the break and stood toe-to-toe against Sun Palace, but failed to neutralize Alipio in the second half to miss the win column in its final attempt. Alipio dropped 15 of her total points in the second half,

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IT&E's Mikayla Lopez, right, faces a tough defense from Shirley's Coffee Shop's Alexa Vergara during the first half of their game in the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO